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Saturday February 24 1996

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Azerbaijan AZ 20	India IN 15	Poland Z 9.70
Bahrain B 10	Indonesia ID 10	Portugal P 20
Bangladesh BD 50	Italy I 3.000	Qatar Q 8.50
Belgium B 170	Jordan JO 1.00	Romania R 2.10
Bulgaria B 12.50	Kazakhstan KZ 1.50	Saudi Arabia R 10
Canada CA 1.00	Latvia LV 2	Slovakia SK 25
Czech Republic KC 45	Lithuania LT 2000	Slovenia SI 7.50
Denmark DK 15	Luxembourg LU 55	Spain S 225
Deutsche D 8.50	Malta MT 0.45	Sweden SK 18
Egypt E 5	Netherlands NL 4.00	Switzerland S 3
Finland FI 11	Norway NK 15	Thailand T 8.00
France F 10	Oman OR 1.00	Turkey T 100.00
Germany G 3.50	Pakistan PK 10	Ukraine UA 2.00
Greece G 50	Poland P 20	USA US 2.70
	Portugal P 20	Zimbabwe Z 27.00

# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR  
46,484

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Other lives

## Return of the prodigal priest

Outlook page 15

Exclusive extract from his new book

## Peter Mandelson: How Labour will change Britain

Outlook front

Interview

## Prince of all the tortured souls

Outlook page 17

# PM vows to see off his critics

### Major claims survival hope despite Scott and defector

Michael White and Richard Norton-Taylor

**J**ohn Major last night batted down the hatches in the wake of the third defection from the Conservative ranks in five months, insisting that his government will weather Monday's Commons vote on the Scott Report — and survive into next year without a crisis election.

With his Commons majority reduced to a perilous two votes by Peter Thurnham's overnight rejection of the Tory whip, Mr Major was urged to stand firm by senior colleagues, led by his deputy, Michael Heseltine.

"I have always expected to go through to the spring of 1997 and I still expect to go through to the spring of 1997," Mr Major said as some jittery Tory MPs predicted an October poll. "I would personally advise him to go right through," Mr Heseltine said.

While Labour dispatched a letter to every Conservative MP calling on them "to stand up for the rights of Parliament" in Monday's Scott vote, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown attacked what the Liberal Democrat leader called "a government which never apologises and a prime minister who never gets rid of anyone — until public opinion forces him".

Ministers gained some respite in the furore over the arms-to-Iraq controversy when the Master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas Bingham, became the most senior judge yet to intervene in support of the beleaguered Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell.

Sir Thomas told BBC Radio 4's *World at One* that he thought Sir Richard's view on gagging orders the controversial public interest immunity (PII) certificates, was "not one that all judges and practitioners would have shared".

Ministers are taking comfort from the PII row among legal experts.

Mr Thurnham, the Bolton North-east MP who quit in disgust after a private meet-

Reactions

"I had a lengthy conversation with Peter and Sarah last evening and we had a very friendly conversation, a very amiable conversation and we were going to meet again next week. I don't quite know what happened after I finished my meeting." — **John Major**

"It appears to be in a fit of pique." — **David Mellor**

"I think it is disgraceful." — **Bolton North East constituency chairman Norman Critchley**

"You've made a mistake." — **Michael Heseltine**

"John Major will need to be careful he doesn't let too many Tory MPs have an hour of his time." — **David Blunkett, shadow education secretary**

ing with Mr Major, twisted the knife with challenges to ministers to accept more of Sir Richard's proposals and prevent "such a debacle in the future".

In an article for the *Guardian* setting out the reasons for his resignation, the 57-year-old businessman accuses Mr Major of "starting to back-track quickly" over the Nolan report's recommendations on the disclosure of MPs' outside interests.

"And now there is Scott. Government ministers did their best to rubbish the Scott report before it had even been published. Once people did get a chance to read the report, it became clear it was an absolute can of worms," he writes.

"The MP, whose decision to become an independent comes after Alan Howarth

joined Labour and Emma Nicholson joined the Liberal Democrats, faced criticism from colleagues and party activists. They said he had failed to find a safer seat on the "chicken run," a charge he called "rubbish."

Mr Heseltine said: "You've made a mistake." Mr Major told reporters: "I had a lengthy conversation with Peter and Sarah (his wife) last evening and we had a very friendly conversation... and we were going to meet again next week. I don't quite know what happened after I finished my meeting."

As it emerged that Mr Thurnham had been wooed by the Liberal Democrats, in private talks and dinner with the chief whip, Archie Kirkwood, there was speculation that he might be asked to be their candidate in Westmorland, the seat he failed to get. Tory whips discount the theory: "He's not a Liberal Democrat."

Mr Thurnham says his chief concern is Scott. "The more I read the Scott report, the more appalled I am. The Government is obviously minded not to take any action over Scott further than it needs to, and Monday's motion is a technical one, which they'll try to wriggle round," says Mr Thurnham whose strongest concern is over the use of PII certificates in the Matrix Churchill trial.

On this key point Christopher Muttukumar, the Scott inquiry secretary, last night asked the BBC to correct what he called a "misconception" in his interview with the Master of the Rolls. He pointed out that Sir Richard agrees in his report that PII claims could be made in a criminal case. But they should be based on the contents of particular documents. PII claims were made by ministers in the Matrix Churchill case covering documents regardless of content, including "innocuous communications between officials and between ministers and officials."

**Martin Kettle, page 15; Peter Thurnham writes, page 17**

## Chief on Scottish safari finds uneasy head that wore the Xhosa crown



**CHIEF** Nicholas Gcaleka displays the skull that he found in a cottage in the Highlands of Scotland nine days after flying to Britain from South Africa in search of the head of Hintsa, a Xhosa king shot and subsequently mutilated by the British in 1835. The skull belonged until yesterday to the family of the Sutherland estate owner Charles Brooke. Mr Brooke had an ancestor who may have fought with the Seaforth Highlanders South Africa. The evidence that the skull is the king's may not be watertight by severe forensic standards, but Chief Gcaleka was clearly delighted by his discovery. Report, page 3

## Mandelson urges state 'dowry' for couples

Michael White Political Editor

**A**BLAIR government should consider providing young couples with "a form of public dowry" in the shape of an interest-free loan worth up to £5,000 — as an incentive to marriage and the strengthening of family life, Peter Mandelson MP says in his new book.

The left has shunned the language of the family for a generation and needs to make it "a number one social priority" so that children can be raised knowing right from wrong — and "a sense of mutual obligation is founded and practised" — the Labour MP for Hartlepool writes in the book, called *The Blair Revolution*, which he co-wrote with ex-Liberal Democrat, Roger Liddle.

## 'Scapegoat' doctor wins libel damages of £625,000

Angela Johnson and Clara Dyer

**A**HOSPITAL consultant who claimed that the former Health Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, made him a scapegoat after a patient's death to deflect public attention from bed shortages, won £625,000 libel damages yesterday against a newspaper which branded him "Dr Doltie".

Anthony Percy, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at St Mary's hospital, in Sidcup, Kent, said he had been completely vindicated by the size of the award — the fifth highest by a libel jury — which has been condemned by some lawyers.

A High Court jury took six hours to decide that a series of articles published by the *Mirror* last March and April wrongly blamed Mr Percy for the death of Malcolm Murray, aged 45.

But Charles Collier-Wright, legal manager of *Mirror* Group Newspapers, said he was extremely disturbed by the "completely absurd" verdict.

He added that the Court of Appeal, in a recent judgment which slashed damages awarded to the pop star Elton John, had given a clear indication of what judges could say in helping juries work out proper and sensible damages.

"In this case, the jurors Turn to page 3, column 1

## BR cash errors rock sell-off

Simon Beavis Industrial Editor

**T**WO senior managers at a British Rail freight company have been suspended on the eve of its sale to an American firm. Two more managers are being investigated over errors involving up to £500,000.

Labour's transport spokesman, Brian Wilson, immediately called for an inquiry into the matter, the fourth case of financial irregularities to taint the Government's controversial rail privatisation.

Transport Secretary Sir George Young will officially hand over BR's three freight companies to Wisconsin Freight Transportation's head, Ed Birkhardt, at a London ceremony today.

But one, the Doncaster-based Loadhaul, confirmed last night that its finance director and the head of engineering had been put on "investigatory suspension" over "procedural irregularities".

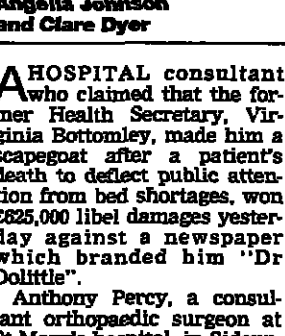
Two other senior managers are under investigation over errors in freight contracts.

Mr Wilson, said last night: "Suddenly the privatisation ethos in the railways seems to have transformed standards of behaviour. It must be fully established whether these events are related to plans for the sell-off."

Loadhaul was created — with Mainline Freight and

## If you sponsor Shomita, no one will have to sponsor her children

Little Shomita is just six years old and the only one she's known is one of hunger, poverty and disease. But by the time she has children of her own, this could be a very different story.



It could be one about lambs, about villagers working together to earn their own living. About children who can read and write and have a future. About a community that can heal the sick and is free from fatal diseases. And if it is, it is because you care enough to sponsor a child.

In return, we'll keep you in touch with regular reports from our field workers plus a photograph and messages from the child you sponsor.

Please sponsor a child today. With your help, we really can change the future.

**Please sponsor a child today.**

Please send me details about sponsoring a child, or call: 01460 61073. I've attached to accompany me:

Name  Where there's a postcard

I don't sponsor a child now, but please call me

£20  £10  £5

Name (please print): ACTON AID, and send to: ACTON AID, FREEPOST 26388A, Chesham, Bucks HP80 1BT, 1991

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_ **ACTIONAID**

Inside  
Row 2  
Weather 2  
World news 6  
Sport 8  
Crossword 12

Outlook  
Front 13  
Comment 14  
Other Lives 15  
Letters 16  
Interview 17

Obituaries 18  
Arts 19  
Money 20  
Financial news 22  
European Business 23

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08



2 CHRONICLE/NEWS

Sarajevo police charm offensive

Julian Borger in Vogošca

DZEMAL TABAK and Vukja Skibina had an extraordinary conversation on a Vogošca street corner yesterday. They asked after each other's health and talked about the weather. It was quite a step forward in the Bosnian peace process.

The commonplace exchange marked the first contact between a resident of the Serb suburbs of Sarajevo and the Bosnian Federation police who began patrolling Vogošca yesterday as part of the Dayton peace agreement.

Officer Tabak, a Muslim, was one of 30 policemen who arrived in the northern Sarajevo district just after dawn under Nato and United Nations police escort. A few dozen Serbs gaped at the green-uniformed police as they stroled into the neighbourhood.

They stood on the pavement nodding at passers-by, clasped their hands behind their backs, and occasionally directed some light traffic.

The Serbs were unsure what to make of it. Their leaders had warned them they would be slaughtered when Bosnian security forces moved in. Most had fled. Only a couple of thousand had remained, out of penury, stubbornness or indecision.

"I want to go and I want to stay," said Mrs Skibina, aged 53. "I had a row with my husband yesterday. He said he would be killed, and he left. But I didn't want to leave. It's the only house we've got, and all my books are there."

Having chosen her library over her husband, she went out into the snow to face her new rulers. "If I was afraid, I

wouldn't be here in the first place," she said, and approached Mr Tabak.

"So you'll be staying here with us?" the policeman asked. "I'm not sure. I'll wait and see how things turn out."

"It will be okay. You'll see. The war is over. We can all live together again — Serbs, Muslims, Croats. It will be fine," Mr Tabak said.

He and his colleagues had clearly been to a police charm school before being sent to Vogošca. But even the slightly forced decorum was encouraging. It suggested the government was finally making a sustained effort to reassure Sarajevo's Serbs.

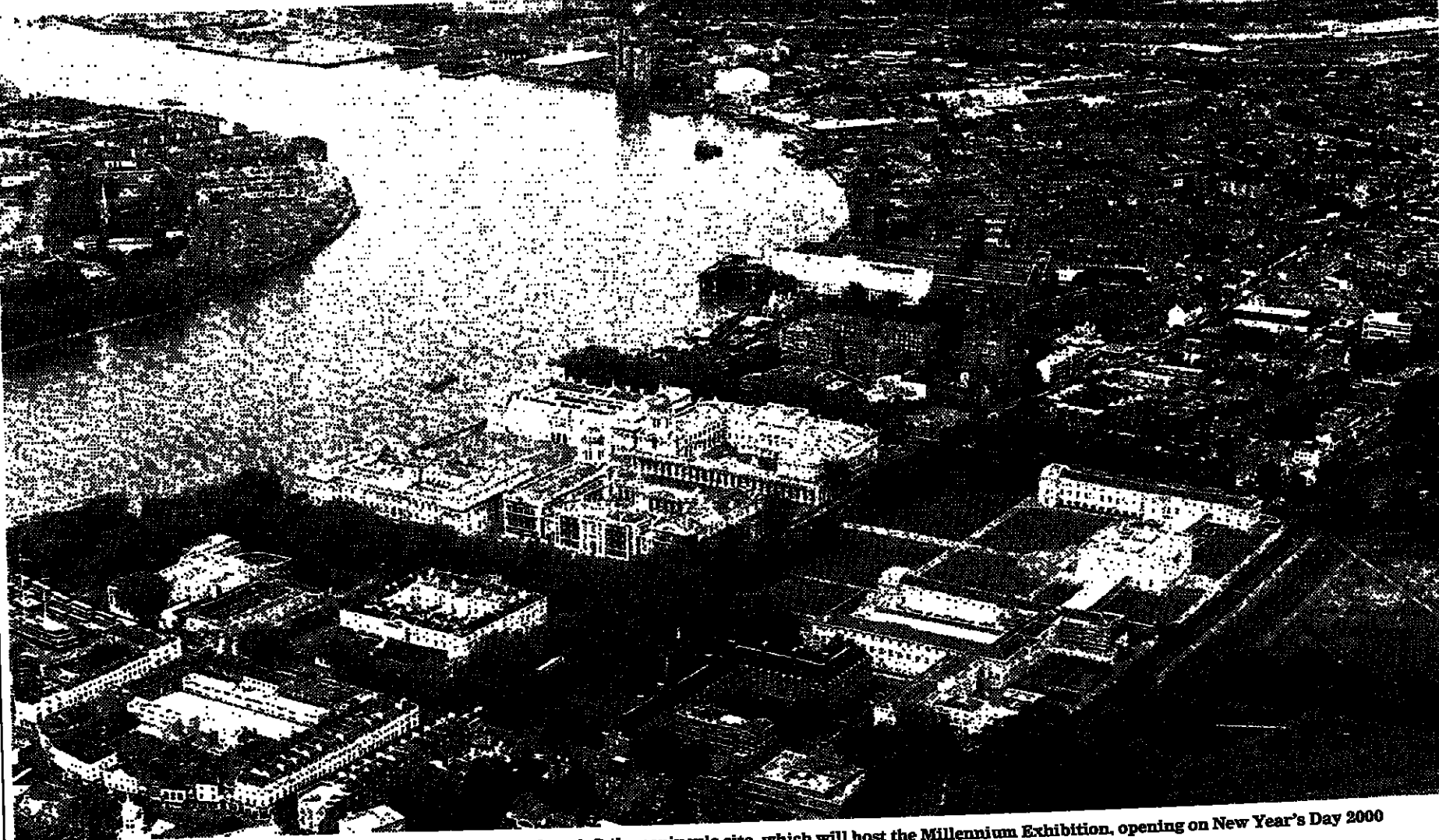
Under international pressure, the government found enough Serb policemen to ensure the force mirrors the suburb's pre-war ethnic composition. Of 85 officers assigned to Vogošca, 33 are Serbs from government-controlled Sarajevo.

They were watched by Irish, Polish and Portuguese officers from the UN's international Police Task Force (IPTF), which yesterday declared itself satisfied with the Bosnian performance.

The image of reconciliation was slightly marred by local Bosnian officials, who in triumphalist mood pulled down the Serb flag and replaced it with the Bosnian Republic's fleur-de-lis.

The incoming officials — mainly Muslim — were furious at finding the police station trashed by its Serb former occupants. In retaliation, they tried to evict the outgoing Serb mayor, despite an agreement that the Serb local authorities should remain until March 19.

Leader comment, page 14; Bosnia's black hole, page 23



Greenwich, with the National Maritime Museum on the right and top left the peninsula site, which will host the Millennium Exhibition, opening on New Year's Day 2000

Greenwich beats Birmingham in Millennium battle

Maev Kennedy Heritage Correspondent

GREENWICH has beaten out a challenge from Birmingham to stage the Millennium Exhibition in 2000 with a £700 million proposal involving a two-year exhibition with pavilions contributed by cities throughout the country, according to the Corporation of London.

Chairman for the corporation, said yesterday that the Environment Secretary, John Gummer, had confirmed to him that the Millennium Commission had chosen London over Birmingham. The commission is chaired by the Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, and includes the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, who is known to have favoured a London site.

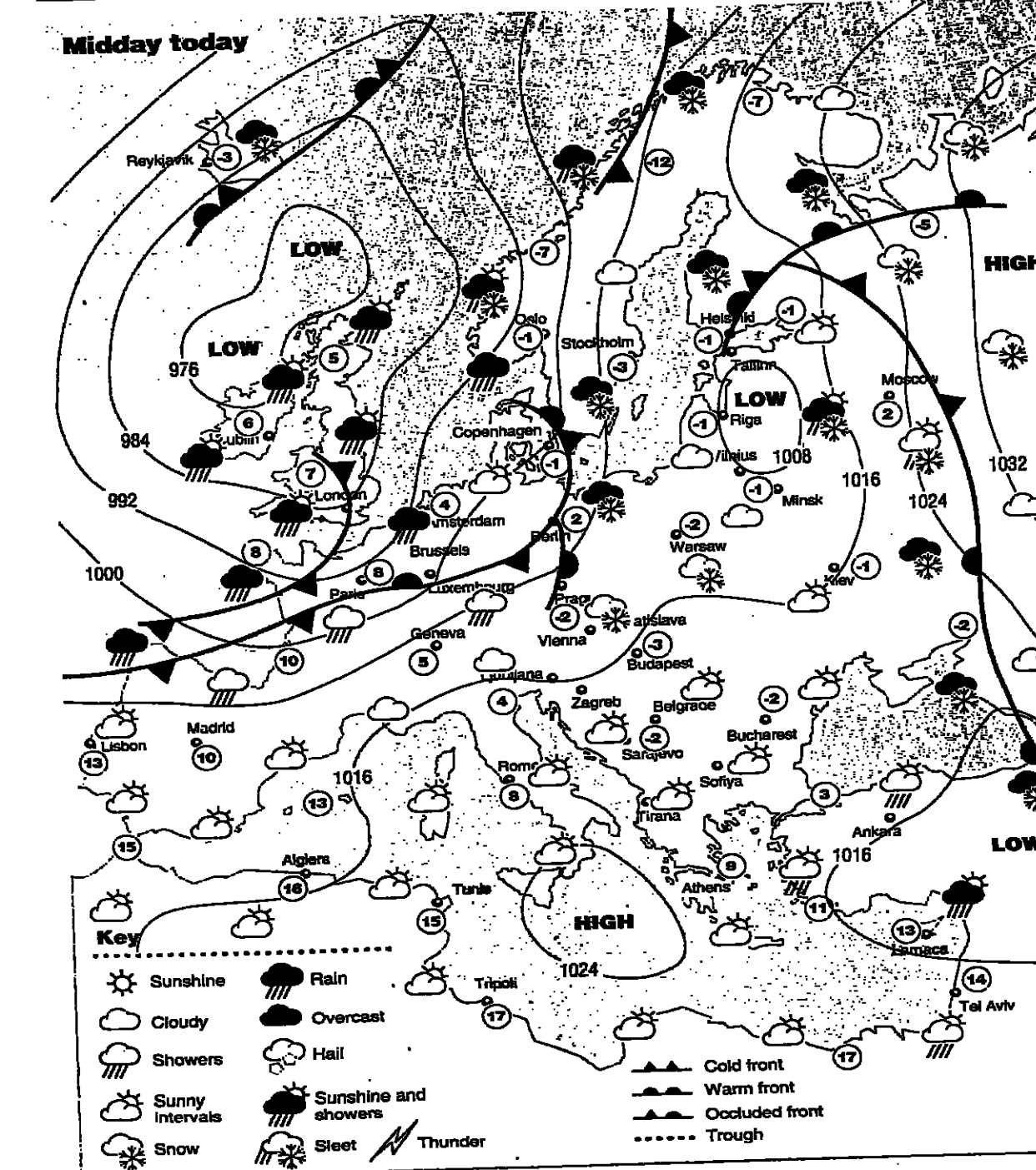
However a commission spokesman insisted yesterday that the final decision had not been made. Reports that six cities will hold linked exhibition projects were also premature, she said. Once the main site is announced the festival programme will be decided, and applications from the regions for pavilions invited. The leader of the Greenwich bid, Sir Bob Scott, was cautious. "The signs are that

it is good news for Greenwich, but we are not throwing our hats in the air until we hear it officially." Unofficially, the NEC has been preparing for the worst since the chosen operator, the design consultancy Imaginative, which preferred the NEC site, was asked to draw up equally detailed plans for the Greenwich peninsula site. The Millennium Commission will provide a grant of £100 million towards the

exhibition, which is to open on New Year's Day 2000, and is expected to attract up to 30 million visitors. The value of the exhibition to Birmingham is £700 million. The NEC was prepared to invest £50 million in the project. When the London backers realised how close they had come to losing a massive effort, led by Mr Cassidy, was put into lining up support from the business

community. The commission's decision angered Birmingham council. "It has been rigged," said the council leader, Theresa Stewart. "All the balls in this particular lottery were marked Greenwich." Anne Underwood, the Tory group leader on the council, said: "It appears to confirm our worst fears that London was going to get it no matter how much better rival bids were."

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities table with columns for city, today, and tomorrow weather and temperature.

Around the world: London yesterday (previous day in America) ... European weather outlook: Plenty of cloud and unsettled weather right across Scandinavia today with sleet and snow in the north...

Television and radio — Saturday

BBC 1: 8.00am News, 8.30am Breakfast, 9.00am News, 9.30am News, 10.00am News, 10.30am News, 11.00am News, 11.30am News, 12.00pm News, 1.00pm News, 1.30pm News, 2.00pm News, 2.30pm News, 3.00pm News, 3.30pm News, 4.00pm News, 4.30pm News, 5.00pm News, 5.30pm News, 6.00pm News, 6.30pm News, 7.00pm News, 7.30pm News, 8.00pm News, 8.30pm News, 9.00pm News, 9.30pm News, 10.00pm News, 10.30pm News, 11.00pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.00am News, 1.00am News, 1.30am News, 2.00am News, 2.30am News, 3.00am News, 3.30am News, 4.00am News, 4.30am News, 5.00am News, 5.30am News, 6.00am News, 6.30am News, 7.00am News, 7.30am News, 8.00am News, 8.30am News, 9.00am News, 9.30am News, 10.00pm News, 10.30pm News, 11.00pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.00am News, 1.00am News, 1.30am News, 2.00am News, 2.30am News, 3.00am News, 3.30am News, 4.00am News, 4.30am News, 5.00am News, 5.30am News, 6.00am News, 6.30am News, 7.00am News, 7.30am News, 8.00am News, 8.30am News, 9.00am News, 9.30am News, 10.00pm News, 10.30pm 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Boxer Max Baer (right, sitting), pictured during Bloom's heyday in 1937, was one of many celebrities to eat at the restaurant

## Fings ain't what they used to be as Bloom's shuts East End doors

Maggie O'Keane

THE pickled cucumber and boiled fowl leg dishes that sustained generations of eastern European Jews in lifelong exile in London ended yesterday as Jonathan Tapper, the great grandson of Maurice Bloom, switched off the lights in London's oldest and most famous Jewish restaurant.

Marching through the East End in October 1836, was first coined by men who probably came into Bloom's afterwards for hot salt beef. Aumie Shapiro, a historian, who has published six books on the history of the East End, sees Bloom's closure as a sad day, but one that has been a long time coming. "The Jewish population of the East End of London has gone from over a 100,000 in the 1930s to around 6,000 now and the ones that are left are old or do not have the money to dine at Bloom's (about £15 for a three course dinner). "The whole area has gone down over the last 20 years. In the sixties and seventies you'd never get a stall on Petticoat Lane - now it's full of empty lots. "The Jewish drapers of Petticoat Lane and Brick Lane have been replaced by Asian traders and there is not much call for deep fried potato bread and hot fruit cordials. It is the same for the turkey schnitzel, once the traditional



Jonathan Tapper at the door PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK MARTIN

after-dinner bite for the Zionist battling with the communists for space at the Jewish version of Speaker's Corner just outside Bloom's restaurant. Bloom's never claimed to be a pretty diner. The tables were blue formica, the lighting neon and the waiters stumpy, their tempers frayed by a system that forced them to pay for the customer's meal first out of their own pocket and then be reimbursed. The waiters were also paid by the plate - dinner by commission, so the customers were never encouraged to linger long over their orange sorbet. The former diners who came yesterday murmured disappointment but with no grave sense of injustice. Mr Lester, having dined there for 30 years, thought things had got a bit slack. "The salted beef sandwiches weren't what they used to be." Then there was the vexed question of whether all the koshered beef was always kosher. The Beth Din in Lon-

don, the Jewish court, decided in January that the licensor to sell kosher meat handed down from father to son Bloom, should be handed back to Bloom senior. The ruling came after worrying reports reached their ears that things at the butchers were not all the rabbi might have wished for. "The orthodox people were very upset about that. They're very particular about that kind of thing," said Mr Lester, who buys and sells on Petticoat Lane. Over the last 10 years, the clients came from the City of fices rather than the synagogues. "It sounds clichéd to say but Bloom's really had a unique atmosphere. I don't mean that it was like something out of an Egon Ronay guide, with tuxid beams - it wasn't like that but it was special," said a 42-year-old journalist who had just heard the news that Bloom's had closed. "I used to go there for lockshen soup. God, I feel close to tears."

## Troops back on streets of Belfast

David Sharrock and Sue Quinn

TROOPS were put back on the streets of Belfast for the first time in almost a year yesterday as political efforts to revive the peace process continued in the shadow of the increased security threat. Sixteen soldiers of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, accompanying four police officers, began the first patrol at 4.10pm in the vicinity of Oldpark RUC station in the north of the city. Earlier bomb specialists were called to another police station to deal with a suspect device, which was declared safe. Troops also provided cover to police in one other incident to some areas as "low-key, local security patrols to protect bases". It added: "Such a measure remains under continuous review and is purely a prudent precautionary move." The Democratic Unionist Party's deputy leader, Peter Robinson, welcomed their return. "The IRA have effectively called the troops back into Northern Ireland. It has in January last year and by March they had disappeared from public view. But some patrols have continued along the border. The RUC described the return of army assistance to some areas as "low-key, local security patrols to protect bases". It added: "Such a measure remains under continuous review and is purely a prudent precautionary move." The Democratic Unionist Party's deputy leader Peter Robinson welcomed their return. "The IRA have effectively called the troops back into Northern Ireland. It has been their choice." But the deputy leader of the nationalist SDLP, Seamus Mallon, was concerned about the impact on community relations, calling the move premature. Meanwhile, a member of the Mitchell Commission on illegal weapons said yesterday that the IRA must call an immediate ceasefire before Sinn Féin could expect to enter all-party talks. Canadian General Sir John de Chastelain told BBC Northern Ireland: "The ceasefire really has to be put back into place first." Amid the growing expectation that a new package of proposals to revive the peace process will be revealed early next week, Downing Street said that John Major spoke by telephone to President Clinton and the Irish prime minister, John Bruton.

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The name that welcomed Jewish diners PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK MARTIN

## Xhosa chief finds Highland skull

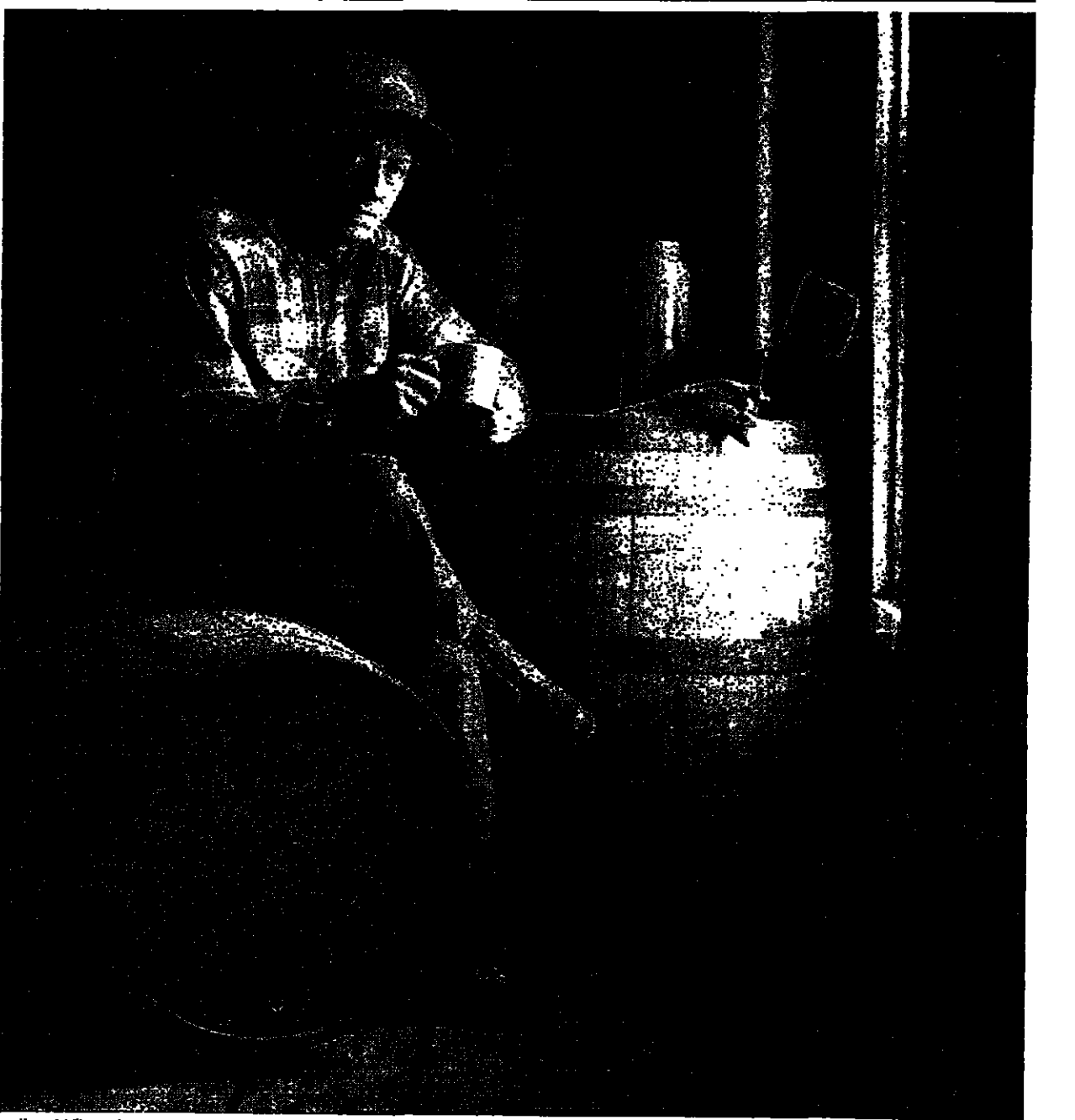
Erlend Clouston

CHIEF Nicholas Galeka's intrepid Scottish safari may have secured its unlikely trophy. Nine days after the traditional headdress flew into Britain on the trail of an extravagant piece of war booty, he found it, or something very like it, glinting on a shelf in the living room of a Highland cottage. The evidence might not have satisfied a Nuremberg prosecutor, but the 47-year-old South African was confidently declaring last night that he had at last located the head of Hintsa, a Xhosa king shot and subsequently mutilated by the British in 1865. The skull, now sitting in a protective box in an Inverness hotel room, belonged

until yesterday to the family of the Sutherland estate owner Charles Brooke. He had an ancestor in the Seaforth Highlanders who may have fought in South Africa. The skull was dug up on the estate 60 years ago. It did have a bullet exit wound - though it was close to the left ear rather than the top of the skull indicated by the official army autopsy on the shooting of Hintsa. The chief - he does not appreciate being called a witchdoctor - has no reservations. After consulting his spirits, one of whom is called Hurricane, he pronounced the end of his quest and the intention to seek the skull's immediate extradition. "I have never been so happy in all my life," said the former off-licencee, who has had to brave both army dis-

dain and the rigours of the British climate, which forced him to supplement his leopard-skin smock with a pair of brown corduroy trousers. "I woke up today singing and jumping with joy because I knew this was going to be the day the dream brought by the spirits came true." Chief Galeka, whose exotic treasure hunt has been endorsed by the South African president, Nelson Mandela, had suspected that the head was on display in the military museum at Fort George, near Inverness. His spirit-advisers revised their view last weekend, steering the president of the Eastern Cape's medicine men somewhat vaguely towards "a field with a pony". Mr Brock, whose family has run the 14,000-acre Mid Fearn estate, near Ardgay, for

more than 130 years, was pleased to confirm that the garden where the skull was found overlooked a field that once contained two white ponies. The army, which has admitted cutting off Hintsa's ears but not his head, reacted with cautious magnanimity last night. "If it is the genuine article, we're more than happy for him," said Captain Frank Ward of Scotland HQ. "We hope he goes home and achieves everything he hopes to achieve." Chief Galeka flies out on March 5 with two ambitions: to reunite Hintsa's headless corpse with the Highland skull, and to secure his second bride, a member of the Xhosa royal family. This will make it easier for him to press his claim to Hintsa's crown and 5.5 million subjects.



If you'd like to know more about our unique whiskey, write to us for a free booklet at the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee USA.

## Doctor wins £625,000 libel award

continued from page 1 were given almost no help at all," said Mr Collier-Wright. The company is to appeal against the verdict and the amount of damages. The veteran libel solicitor Peter Carter-Ruck expressed surprise at the size of the award "in view of the guidance that has been given by the Court of Appeal and the right the court now has to indicate [figures]". In yesterday's case the judge, Mr Justice French, did not suggest sums to the jury but told them only to keep their feet on the ground. David Hooper, another leading libel solicitor, estimated the sum was "at least three times too high". The verdict will undoubtedly embarrass Mrs Bottomley, now the Heritage Secretary, who was subpoenaed to defend herself in the witness box last week. Mr Murray died at Leeds general infirmary last March after suffering a severe brain injury. He had been flown 200 miles from Queen Mary's because a neurosurgical intensive care bed could not be found for him in the South-east. Mr Percy, aged 55, from Bickley, Kent, claimed that the articles suggested that he was guilty of gross dereliction of duty and should be suspended for giving advice from home by telephone rather than going to the hospital when Mr Murray was brought in. "The purpose of bringing the case was to clear my name and restore my good reputation as a man and a caring doctor," he said afterwards.

Top five awards Mr Percy's settlement is the fifth largest British libel award. Lord Aldington, November 1989, awarded £1.5 million over allegations by Court Medical Technology that he sent Coopers and Lybrand to their deaths in 1945. John Walker, his wife Joan, and two boat designing company, Walker Whirlpool Systems, July 1984, won a total of £1.485 million over an article in Yachting World which attacked their revolutionary trimaran. They agreed to receive £160,000. Elton John, December 1988, £1 million settlement from the Sun over allegations about his private life. Christine Southern, June 1985, £750,000 damages over a May 1983 article in The People. Settled for £100,000 plus costs. Mr Percy's £625,000. Mr Percy, who brought the case with the financial support from the Medical Protection Society, said that he was never asked to attend the hospital the night Mr Murray was brought in. If he had been, he would have been there like a shot. There was no clinical support that he could have given his particularly competent senior house officer and it would have made absolutely no difference if he had done the ringing round to find a suitable bed for the patient. He said he had been set up to be the scapegoat and political football by Mrs Bottomley and senior NHS officials anxious to divert media attention from health cuts. The Daily Mirror claimed that it had written a fair and



Anthony Percy and his wife, Diane PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF GILBERT

accurate account of a leaked South Thames Regional Health Authority report, which criticised Mr Percy for giving advice to a junior doctor from home by phone rather than going into the hospital. Mr Percy's counsel, Charles Gray QC, alleged that Mrs Bottomley called in a memo for Mr Percy's role to be "flagged up" after being told that he was to be censured. Mrs Bottomley, who spent 2½ hours in the witness box, dismissed the charge that she had made Mr Percy a sacrificial lamb as "complete nonsense". George Carman, for the newspaper, told the jury that Mr Percy had made the "most outrageous, irresponsible and ill-founded criticisms" of the

honesty and integrity of those within the NHS. But Mr Percy said yesterday: "I knew I was being scapegoated by a number of people. I knew it was happening and it was unfair." Mr Percy, who has been a consultant at Queen Mary's since 1977, complained that there was still a problem, about the shortage of neurosurgical and intensive care beds. He called for a central reference point for these beds to be set up in London so that seriously ill patients could be found a place with one phone call. Mirror Group was granted a stay on payment of all but £50,000 of the award pending an appeal. It faces a costs bill estimated at about £300,000.

A TENNESSEE BARRELMAN like Richard McGee gets more done before coffee than most folks do in a day.

Mr. McGee will rise ahead of the sun. Then, in the cool of Tennessee's morning, roll hundreds of newly-filled barrels into aging houses set deep in the hills. (Our whiskey will sleep out here until it's ready for you.) What accounts for the rareness you find in Jack Daniel's? Partly, this old Tennessee process. And, partly, old Tennessee barrelmen like Richard McGee.



JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

# Inquest told of deaths of Gloucester builder's first wife and lover Police track down three of missing West women



The sands on the Spurn peninsula have been vulnerable to dramatic but predictable shifts since Roman times

Sally Waale

**D**ETECTIVES announced yesterday that they have traced three out of nine women known to have passed through Rosemary and Fred West's home in Cromwell Street, Gloucester. They are still looking for a fourth woman, Donna Lynn Moore, but have decided to abandon the search for the remaining five because the descriptions they have are too vague. Detective Superintendent John Bennett, who headed the West inquiry, said yesterday: "There was no reason to think that any harm has befallen these women. We only wanted to trace them to help our inquiries." Donna Moore is described as 5ft 5ins tall, of slim build, with a pretty face, and having long fair hair. She spoke with an American accent and her father is believed to have been a serviceman at a USAF base in East Anglia.

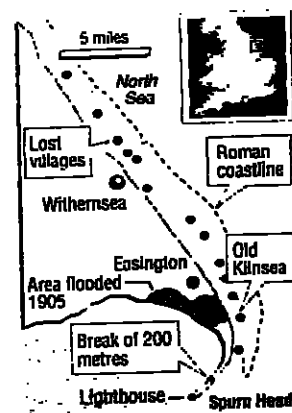


Catherine 'Rena' West, left, and Anne McFall, West's lover

The three women who have been traced do not want to be fully identified, but police named them as Marilyn, in her late 30s in 1973 and thought to come from Matson, Gloucester; Mireeker, a Dutch girl in her 20s in 1977; and another Marilyn, aged 18 or 19 in 1973 and believed to be from the Forest of Dean. The news came as Mr Bennett told an inquest that Fred West's mother, Daisy, believed her son killed his teenage lover years before his eventual arrest. In 1987 she

told an unnamed friend: "Fred has killed that young girl and buried her in Kempley Woods." It was not reported to the police and Mrs West died six months later. The Gloucester coroner, David Gibbons, was presiding over the resumed inquests into the deaths of Fred West's first wife, Catherine "Rena" West, aged 25, and her friend and babysitter, Anne McFall, aged 18, who was born in Glasgow and was West's lover. West, aged 53, was originally

charged with 12 murders, including those of Catherine West and Anne McFall. After he was found hanging in his Birmingham prison cell on New Year's Day last year, all charges were formally dropped. His wife, Rosemary, was convicted on 10 charges of murder last November. An appeal against conviction is due to be heard next month. The dismembered remains of both Catherine West and Anne McFall were uncovered in police digs in adjoining cornfields at Kempley, Gloucestershire, in the summer of 1984. The remains of Anne McFall's unborn baby were found alongside her skeleton. Mr Bennett told the coroner that in police interviews the builder admitted strangling Catherine, but repeatedly denied involvement in Anne's murder. He signed a handwritten note admitting killing Catherine and nine others. The coroner returned verdicts of unlawful killing for both women, and expressed his sympathy to their relatives.



## Technology thwarts tides that will shift with the sands of Spurn

Martin Wainwright on a flexible answer

THE wandering sands of Spurn are set to embark on their latest travels in the North Sea, after multiple breaches by a combination of force nine gales and spring tides. But modern technology will guarantee access to the lifeboat and pilot stations at the head of the slender Yorkshire peninsula, following a meeting in Hull yesterday of naturalists, lifeboat authorities and local councils. The fragile finger of land which hooks down into the Humber estuary from the plain of Holderness will be left to its natural devices, but linked to the mainland by a novel system of flexible roadway which will move along with the sand and shingle spit. "We are delighted that such an imaginative solution which will allow us flexibility for many years

to come has won general agreement so quickly," said Peter Pearson, chairman of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, which runs a reserve on the three-mile-long point. The conference in Hull was called after warnings that growing ferry and freighter traffic from the Humber ports needed the pilotage and lifeboat services based at Spurn. Spurn has moved in dramatic but predictable ways since Roman times, when the coast lay more than two miles westwards beyond the drowned medieval towns of Ravenspurn and Ravenser Odd. Studies have repeatedly shown that the washing of eroded sand and debris from the Holderness coast always rebuilds the peninsula a little to the west, after breaches by gales and the tide.

## Welsh lessons for columnist turned Tory candidate

Martin Linton

**B**ORIS JOHNSON had his first Welsh lesson yesterday as part of his transformation from hell-raising Thatcherite columnist of the Daily Telegraph to prospective Conservative parliamentary candidate for Clwyd South. Mr Johnson, who landed



Boris Johnson: Fighting 5,000 Labour majority

the nomination this week, had only mastered two phrases so far — "iechyd da" and "nos da", "cheers" and "goodnight" — but insisted that he would soon be chatting fluently to the 40 per cent of voters who speak Welsh in the south of the seat. Even that is unlikely to do him much good in a seat that is currently held by Labour on a 4,941 majority. Nor is it likely to go down well in Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant and Gwyddelwern, when they read some of the things he has had to say about Wales in his column. For example, the time in December 1994 when he sprang to the defence of Rod Richards MP, who said of Welsh Labour councillors: "They're short, they're fat, they're slimy, and they're fundamentally corrupt." "While [Mr Richards'] views may be exceedingly rude," wrote Mr Johnson, "... he could argue that, dash it, there is a poetic truth contained therein."



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Labour attacks 'expensive bureaucratic paper chase' as minister introduces new rule changes to scheme starting in four pilot areas

# Parents confused over nursery vouchers plan

Donald MacLeod  
Education Correspondent

**A** THIRD of parents eligible for nursery vouchers in April have so far failed to apply, the Government admitted yesterday as it began mailing them to families in four pilot areas.

Many parents have thrown away their application forms as their children are already in nursery classes, not realising they still have to apply under the voucher system.

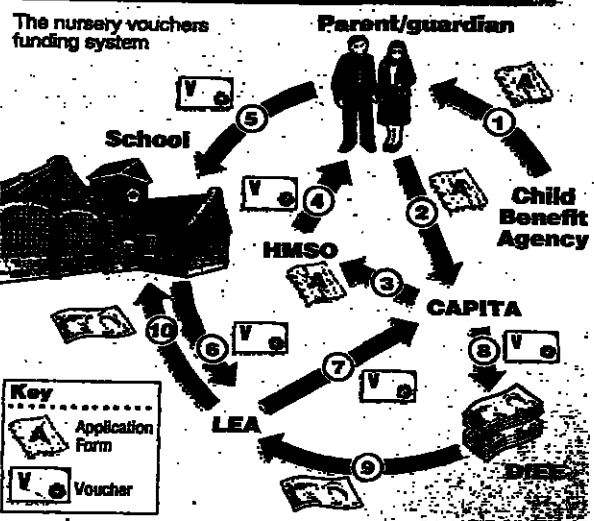
Robin Squire, the schools minister, rejected claims that the system of using the £1,100 vouchers was too bureaucratic. But further confusion was introduced yesterday with another rule change.

In a parliamentary answer Mr Squire said it was up to local authorities to decide whether to handle the voucher paperwork or leave it to schools.

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, said money would be clawed back from local authorities, then given to a management company to distribute to parents — who would then hand it back to the authorities. Paperwork would cost £290 per child.

"This will be nothing more than an expensive and

## The voucher trail



bureaucratic paper chase, without any guarantee of any new places.

Mr Squire said parents still had time to apply. "As soon as they see the voucher they will realise how simple it is to use."

He admitted there would not be places for all four-year-olds, but added: "We believe that within a reasonably short time there will be universal provision."

based company, administering the scheme, which forwarded details to HMCSO at Chadderton, near Manchester, where the vouchers are printed. The first batch of 6,200 went out yesterday.

Vouchers are being issued in four pilot authorities — Norfolk and the London boroughs of Wandsworth, Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea. The initiative is to be extended nationwide next year to fulfil John Major's pledge to provide nursery education for all four-year-olds.

Ministers insist the scheme would not harm provision for younger children, but Westminster council said yesterday it was reviewing funding and places for three-year-olds. The borough estimates it will have a shortfall of 1,500 places for four-year-olds in April, and is struggling to increase provision in collaboration with voluntary play groups and private nurseries.

But Labour claims more than 133,000 places for three-year-olds now provided by local authorities are being put at risk.



Roll call... Schools minister Robin Squire inspecting the first nursery vouchers coming off the presses PHOTOGRAPH ROB HOWARTH



## Non-drip and pyramid tea bags steep to conquer UK taste buds

Pyramid power... PG Tips' chimp launches new bag

James Melkide  
Community Affairs Editor

**T**EA claimed its place among the ultimate designer drinks yesterday, as leading tea bag makers insisted that bags represent the shape of things to come.

Tetley, inventor of the round bag, teased away some of the publicity from PG Tips' new pyramid product by announcing that it would soon introduce Britain to the non-drip bag. And as both companies chortled about no longer being square, the battle for business became a matter of taste.

Tetley's no-mess draw-string bag, on trial in Australia, "means you'll be able to lift the bag from your cup without spilling it all over your desk", said Ian Prutton, director of worldwide business development.

"It has two strings with tags which, when pulled

together, squeeze all excess liquid out of the bag."

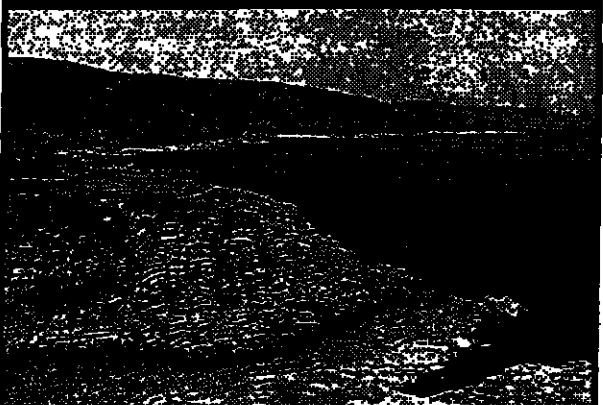
Plans for a British launch have to be finalised, but Tetley, which added 25 per cent to sales when it started selling the round bag in 1989, welcomed the competition from the pyramid. "It is good for the market," said Mr Prutton.

But PG Tips, famous for its 40-year-old chimpanzee advertisements suggested that the round bag had done little for taste. "We will not only refresh the tea market but bring a whole new taste," said Marcus Marsden, PG Tips' senior brand manager.

The pyramid bag will be launched in April. "Tests proved that the tetrahedral tea bag comes closer to allowing the tea to brew like loose tea in a teapot than any other bag," says the advertising blurb.

"Whether the pyramid makes a better cup remains to be seen," said Mr Prutton.

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# Chirac mutilates the armourers of Bourges

A presidential insistence that the British way is best comes hard to the men who make parts for France's tanks and missiles, writes Alex Duval Smith

**R**EGIS RUELLÉ sent food parcels to striking British miners and telegrams to Bobby Sands. So he does not take very kindly to President Jacques Chirac's latest bout of Anglophilia. "Chirac keeps telling us that we must model our defence on Britain's," he said. "That basically means going down the Thatcherite route of privatisation and massive job losses. Soon he'll be telling us to drive on the left."

The only change of direction Mr Ruellé can foresee for himself and the other 1,400 staff at Giat Industries in Bourges is a quick march to the job centre. At the age of over 40, and after 30 years of service, he does not relish the prospect.

Giat's employees in Bourges, one of the compa-

ny's 14 manufacturing bases in France, make barrels for the army's Leclerc battle tanks. In these rapid-deployment times, tanks are out of fashion, at least the 52-ton variety, which hardly any cargo aeroplane can carry.

President Chirac made that quite clear on Thursday night when he went live on French television to outline what will undoubtedly be the toughest policy initiative in his seven-year term. His complete overhaul of French defence affects 300,000 civilians and 600,000 military personnel.

In Bourges, where one in two jobs depends on defence, it was thoroughly bad news. President Chirac intends to abolish conscription in six years' time and create a career army, equipped to deploy rapidly. "It's a great Britain," he will virtually halve the number of ground troops, the ones that use tanks.

Mr Ruellé, who started as a machine-tool worker and is now the full-time representative at Giat for the communist-inclined CGT union, said: "He's doing this for Europe, forgetting France's territorial interests and ignoring a republican tradition in which arms are not just another commodity subject to market forces."

He is not being utopian, at least not by the standards of Bourges. Here, most of the streets are named after Napoleon III's generals: the emperor made Bourges a defence capital after France lost Alsace-Lorraine to the Prussians in 1871 and it was expedient to re-locate the armaments industry.

The present population includes 5,000 troops. Four thousand civilians work for Giat or make missiles at Aérospatiale. Others staff the biotech EPBS factory, which tests army equipment.

On Wednesday the shops in the two main streets closed their shutters or turned off their lights for two hours as a mark of solidarity. Their *mise au noir* (dead city) gesture was intended to illustrate the future face of a region that employs 12,000 in the defence industry.

Yesterday no shopkeeper was willing to believe the government's promise that no jobs would be lost. Most agreed with the Socialist Party's estimate of up to 60,000 losses nationally.

"In a few years' time Bourges will be as much of a desert as northern France became when they closed down the steel companies in the 1980s," said Merric Le Minoux, owner of the Victor Hugo brasserie.

At the Giat canteen on the southern outskirts the workers were resigned. "There is nothing to say. We're just going to save up the pennies while the going is good," said Christophe Boffano, aged 26, a research worker.

Gerard Boyer, aged 47, a shop-floor worker, said: "There is very little private industry here, and most of that is doing subcontract work for the defence companies. There is the Michelin

tyre factory, but they have halved their staff in the last three years."

No one in Bourges, which holds one of Europe's largest rock festivals every spring and whose mediaeval centre draws tourists, has managed to produce an idea for creating new long-term employment.

"Perhaps we could make tourist coaches or chairs for ski-lifts," a production worker said despondently.

He and others are profoundly disappointed with the city's deputy and mayor, Serge Lepeltier of Mr Chirac's Rally for the Republic party voted for the government's reduced defence budget in November.

But the resignation reflects an understanding that Mr Chirac does not have much choice. French defence has not been adapted to the post-cold war era and the export market has slumped.

Mr Ruellé said: "The only market left is the Middle East. We have sold 436 Leclerc tanks to the United Arab Emirates, which means they will have more of them than France. But we are part of a



Bad news... The peace of Bourges' old quarter is shattered by Chirac's defence cuts bombshell. PHOTOGRAPHS: RAY ROBERTS

new European defence structure which Chirac does not want to fight.

"Under it, Germany will make tanks, Britain will make munitions, and France will provide its nuclear deterrent and surveillance. There will be no room for our tank barrels, or for the century of know-how Bourges has accumulated."

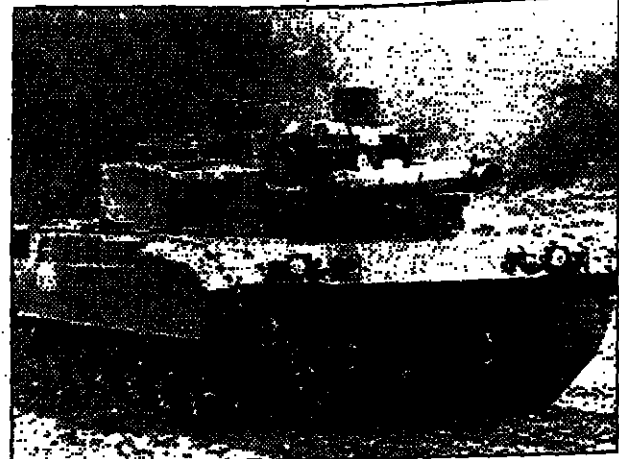
possibilities for which it was not equipped would impede the extension of security eastwards, create a new obstacle to the accession of central European states and marginalise Nato allies which were not involved.

By contrast, Britain intended to use its WEU presidency to make it an effective instrument for planning and controlling military operations for which Nato was not appropriate — because they did not involve the United States, he said.

Ministers had agreed four years ago to prepare the WEU for peacekeeping, humanitarian relief operations and crisis management. "Our objective is that by the end of the year, the WEU should be ready to perform a good number of these," the Prime Minister added.

The tension over the issue of European military integration reached a peak after last year's rabble-rousing Tory party conference speech by the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, when he told delegates that brave British soldiers would never give their lives "for Brussels".

Since then Anglo-American suspicions that the development of European military institutions like the Eurocorps would weaken Nato have been allayed by further French moves to reintegrate with the transatlantic alliance.



The Leclerc battle tank that faces its last battle

## PM rejects EU defence role

David Fabhall Defence Correspondent

**P**UTTING Brussels in charge of European defence would sacrifice real security needs to "institutional tidiness and the illusion of progress", John Major declared yesterday.

In a speech evidently calculated to reassure Conservative Euro-sceptics without unduly alarming Britain's allies the Prime Minister spelt out the strict limits to which his Government was prepared to see the European Union take control of defence policy and operations. "Our contribution to regional security 'in the non-military field', he told Western European Union Ministers in London. But giving it military responsibilities would do nothing to enhance this."

Mr Major was addressing a special assembly called to discuss the EU's inter-governmental conference which starts next month, where the determination of some governments to give Brussels direct responsibility for defence will be among the most contentious issues. Some had argued that the conference should take the first steps towards an eventual merger of the EU and the WEU, but this was "a recipe not for more action, but less."

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## Divorce adds to Saddam drama

David Hirst in Beirut

**P**RESIDENT Saddam Hussein's two eldest daughters have divorced their defector husbands who returned to Iraq this week. Baghdad television announced yesterday in the latest turn in the bizarre and bewildering Saddam family drama.

It is the first time that the official Iraqi media have even so much as mentioned that Rughad and Rana had left for Jordan last August with their fugitive husbands — Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel al-Majid and his cousin Saddam Kamel al-Majid. President Saddam wanted no reminder of defections that were a special dishonour and humiliation.

The fugitives' repentance had now broken with them because of their "betrayal of their country and the noble value of their family".

Their public repudiation reinforces the question everyone has been asking: what induced Lieut-Gen Majid to go back, and how did he get others of his entourage to do so?

Official statements about their likely fate have not been reassuring. The Revolutionary Command Council approved "their application for a pardon": a spokesman said they would be treated as "ordinary citizens". But any ordinary citizen who did what they did faces certain execution.

Lieut-Gen Majid — formerly head of Iraq's weapons programmes — is said originally to have fled because he feared for his life at the hands of Mr Saddam's tempestuous elder son, Uday. Ominously, it was Uday who headed the "reception" committee for the returning penitents, and it was his personal propaganda outlet — Youth Television — which broke the news that his sisters had "requested and obtained their divorce".

The favourite explanation for Lieut-Gen Majid's decision to go home is that he had reached a state of despair, if not complete breakdown, because of his failure to win any support outside Iraq for his bid to "replace" Saddam. According to the London newspaper al-Hayat, he spent his last days in his palace in Amman "cursing everyone around him, shouting down the telephone and making contradictory statements to the press reflecting a loss of mental balance".

Light but residents said yesterday the violence had scaled down. — Reuter.

**Fire investigation** The mayor of Venice and the superintendent of the La Fenice opera house are being investigated for the fire that gutted the city's landmark last month. The case could centre on whether enough fire prevention measures were taken. — AP.

**China clampdown** China has blamed Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, for unrest in the Himalayan region in recent years and vowed to close politically prominent lamaseries and jail separatist monks and nuns. The official Tibet Daily reported yesterday. — Reuter.

**Bahrain unrest** Suspected Shi'ite anti-government protesters in Bahrain set a bank on fire, blocked a main highway and exploded gas cylinders on Thursday

had been a political coup for Mr Saddam. But clearly he has decided that he must cleanse his personal honour, too. Hence the divorces.

It is assumed that his two former henchmen, branded as "traitors" and "apostates" after they fled, got guarantees of their personal safety before they returned from Amman to Baghdad. But the public repudiation by their wives augurs ill for them.

"Before long," said an Iraqi exile, "we shall hear about a mysterious accident like the helicopter crash that killed Aduan Khairallah" — a cousin of Saddam and former defence minister who was probably murdered.

According to the television announcement, the two daughters were ignorant of their husbands' treachery at the time of their flight. They

had now broken with them because of their "betrayal of their country and the noble value of their family".

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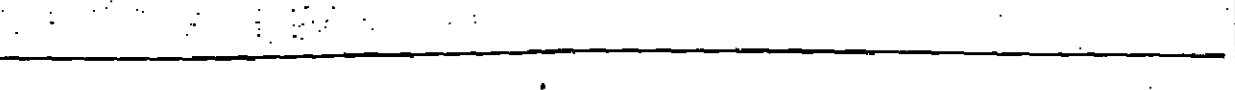
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**It will not be enough to tell the children that everyone on the ship worked hard to save it, nor that the salvage team were working against difficult weather. They will see the dead and dying birds; they will miss the crab in the rockpools next summer**



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urges

In the wake of the end of the IRA ceasefire, Guardian writers look abroad for hope of a settlement in Northern Ireland

# Irish question may need US answer

With the peace process stalled, Washington could hold the key to progress as Clinton seeks to safeguard one of his proudest foreign policy achievements.

Below Jonathan Freedland examines the influence of Irish America on White House policy

**N**OW all they can do is wait, along with everyone else. For the next few days, perhaps weeks, Irish America is sitting tight as President Clinton weighs his next move in the peace process he has all but called his own. The question has boiled down to this: will he or won't he?

At its narrowest, will Mr Clinton renew the US entry visa of the Sinn Féin leader, Gerry Adams? Will he do it by March 17, so that Mr Adams can walk in one of the many St Patrick's Day parades? Will Mr Clinton grant the visa, but as a punishment for the London bombings and the end of the IRA ceasefire, reimpose the ban on Sinn Féin fundraising in the US? The timing is critical because the lead up to what Americans call St Paddy's Day is boom time for Irish fund-raising. A million dollars has reportedly been shipped from the US to Sinn Féin already. But March 17 has an extra significance. In New York and across America it is more than an Irish day out — it's a national rite of spring. Gerry Adams knows that goodwill for his cause is never greater than on that day.

There is, though, a larger question: will Bill Clinton stay the course, or walk away from Northern Ireland?

The answer matters because, in a world where international conflicts appear to need external pressure before they can be resolved, Mr Clinton has been the outsider who has brought movement to Northern Ireland. His enemies and his friends agree. He has been more engaged in the province than any other American president.

Yesterday he telephoned Mr Major and the Irish prime minister, John Bruton, from

Air Force One, speaking to each for five to ten minutes. Those who know Mr Clinton say he will stay involved since he now has a direct stake in peace in northern Ireland. The political reasons have been rehearsed often: there are 44 million US voters claiming Irish lineage of whom perhaps two million feel their identity keenly; the 17-month ceasefire was one of the brightest points in a patchy foreign policy record; last year's visit to Belfast and Dublin was, by consensus, the highlight of the Clinton presidency (the footage was just waiting to be converted into TV ads for November's election campaign). For those reasons alone, Mr Clinton cannot afford to have the peace process go into reverse.

What's more, the president is under no political pressure to abandon Northern Ireland. There is no pro-British vote in the US, and few Republicans have seen any political profit in an end to a ceasefire which everyone wanted to work. Remarkably even now there is no domestic pressure on Mr Clinton to desert his new political ally Gerry Adams.

But the crucial point is that there is a very powerful political and economic force working to ensure Mr Clinton stays involved: Irish America. Indeed, some say the real outside agent in the battle for Northern Ireland has been a team effort by the US government and the country's Irish community.

It was Irish-American pressure which pushed Mr Clinton to weigh in in the first place, subsequently lobbying him on the Adams visa and Sinn Féin fundraising. As with all things Clinton, there was a political history to this, too. Irish-Americans had worked for Bill Clinton when he was an unknown presidential wannabe, back in 1991.



It's good to talk... On his visit to Belfast last year President Clinton shakes the hand of Gerry Adams, an action which John Major said would turn his stomach. Elsewhere in the world, the conflict in South Africa (top), the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina (middle) and the Zapatista uprising in Mexico have all shown themselves amenable to negotiation



"He feels the Irish were there for him early," says Niall O'Dowd, publisher of the Irish Voice, and a key liaison between the administration and the community.

What is remarkable is not that a US president is repaying a political debt to Irish-Americans, but that he is using activity in Northern Ireland to do it. For most of this century, no one would have made the connection. Unlike American Jews, who have always demanded a pro-Israel stance from their

government, Irish-American concern for Ireland has waxed and waned.

Of course the first wave of immigrants were obsessed by the old country; a band of Fenians attempted to invade British-held Canada in 1866 and 1870 in the hope that London would hand over Ireland in a swap for Canada. "Gymnastic schools" popped up in Brooklyn and Chicago, training fighters for the Irish war; the agitators of the Land League were funded by Irish-American dollars.

But later generations lost interest, as they set about making their way in America. The legendary Irish political machines in Boston and New York were preoccupied with gaining local influence and jobs — not on foreign policy. Faced with anti-Irish and anti-Catholic bigotry, they worked hard to become unhyphenated Americans.

That drive for assimilation reached its climax in the election of a third-generation Irishman as president in 1960. John F. Kennedy meant "it

was OK to be Irish," says Mr O'Dowd — and Irish-Americans began to take pride in their roots.

Peter Quinn, a leading chronicler of Irish-America, believes it was assimilation itself which triggered the reawakening. "When your identity begins to unravel, that's when you become interested in it," he says. In the early 1980s, the trend crystallised. Like all America's ethnic groups, the Irish began to look for their roots. The connection with North-

ern Ireland came with the E-Block hunger strike of 1981. "Ten guys starving to death had an impact that a thousand bombs in London would never have," recalls Mr O'Dowd. The IRA had always turned off all but a tiny minority of Irish-Americans. Now more started to care.

These moderate forces began working with the Irish government, who had previously dismissed Irish-American as too extreme. The initial focus of their efforts was the wave of illegal

immigrants flooding into the US in the mid-1980s. That was resolved in the famous lottery for Green Cards, but it left a working relationship between Irish America and Dublin that has endured.

Now second only to Jews as America's best educated and most affluent ethnic group — a community of company bosses and professionals, not cops and navvies — Irish America's interest in the old country has been stirred. And they're making sure their president doesn't forget it.

## Lessons of world's conflicts that Britain might do well to learn

Derek Brown in Jerusalem, David Boesford in Johannesburg, Ian Traynor in Bonn and Chris Taylor in London

**F**rom Sarajevo to San Salvador, Jerusalem to Johannesburg and beyond, the guns have fallen relatively silent. The batters have stolen a lead over the men of violence. Armed struggle, terrorism, and authoritarianism are yielding to halting reconciliation and fragile freedoms.

Yet in London and Belfast, the bombers are back. The politics of No Surrender are proving impervious to the different forms of peace process taking root in such varied theatres of conflict as South Africa, the Middle East, the Balkans and Central America.

Are John Major and Gerry Adams dancing to a different tune from Mandela and De Klerk, Peres and Arafat, Milosevic and Izetbegovic, the Sandinistas and the contras? Are we condemned to shuffle one step forward and two steps back, while the partners to other seemingly intractable conflicts manage to reverse that terrible pattern?

All of these conflicts differ hugely from one another. But in the 1990s they have also exhibited common factors, the Troubles significantly less so than the others — the bowing to international pressure, the vulnerability to economic leverage, the calculation of the rival warlords that there is more to be gained from the peace — even where that means not so much reconciliation as pursuing the conflict by other means — and the courage of the rival leaders required to sue for peace.

The Middle East conflict, for example, may be younger than the Irish question, but it is, like Bosnia, certainly bigger and bloodier. Yet in the last three years, the region has moved towards a kind of reconciliation, while Northern Ireland has seenawed between hope and despair.

In those years, Israel has passed from having one unenthusiastic ally in the region, Egypt, into a new era of partnership with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and a full peace with Jordan. Now, as the PLO consolidates

and extends its hold in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, the contrast with the woeful events in Britain and Ireland could not be greater.

Any attempt to draw lessons from the peace process and apply them directly to another would be grossly inappropriate. The conflicts are simply too different in context and in scale. But there are recurring parallels. Britain, like Israel, had to consider the price of peace, and act accordingly. Israel has paid the price, and many Israelis consider it outrageously high. Britain cavilled over the terms and is now suffering.

The late Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin had a hawkish background but pointed out that "Negotia-

tions are conducted with enemies, not friends."

The British approach differed markedly from the Israeli in three important ways: reluctance to accept international mediation, insistence on an arms surrender, and refusal to consider mass releases of prisoners.

In Guatemala and Mexico, too, though no comprehensive settlements have yet been reached, disarmament in advance of negotiations, as demanded by Mr Major, was and remains unthinkable.

In South Africa, President F.W. de Klerk quickly accepted that the decommissioning of African National Congress arms had no importance beyond the tactical.

In Bosnia, the disarming and separation of forces being enforced by Nato, followed rather than preceded a negotiated settlement.

With the notable exception of Ulster, the thread linking all these conflicts is that the issue of arms was not allowed to derail negotiations. By con-

trast, Downing Street insisted on IRA arms surrender before negotiations could take place.

The Israelis and the Bosnian parties accepted international mediation, indeed outside military intervention eventually in Bosnia's case, and agreed on mass prisoner releases.

While the US mediator Richard Holbrooke shuttled around the Balkans in pursuit of a deal and his boss Warren Christopher speeds regularly to and from the Middle East to keep the peace momentum going, George Mitchell, the retired US senator, who led the three-man body which advised on decommissioning paramilitary weapons last month, arrived in London on Wednesday to survey the Ulster impasse

The outside pressure takes not only the form of good offices mediation, but also is brought to bear on bank balances. The deployment of money or lack of it to concentrate minds on peace has been another key to success in the South African revolution, in the Middle East and in Bosnia.

In the case of South Africa, economists and political scientists believe disinvestment, through formal sanctions and the flight of foreign funds resulting from a pragmatic assessment of risk by hard-businesmen, forced the apartheid state into concessions.

In the Balkans, the stick of the UN trade embargo on Serbia helped persuade President Slobodan Milosevic to brush aside Bosnian Serb recalcitrance and sign the accord for them, while the carrot of reconstruction funds encouraged the Bosnians and the Croats to make peace.

The absence of imposed economic penalties in the case of Northern Ireland means that this instrument has had little impact.

And setting Northern Ireland apart from the other disputes is perhaps the question of legitimacy and recognition. There has seldom been any doubt that Nelson Mandela's and the ANC's claims to leadership would be vindicated at the ballot box, similarly with Yasser Arafat and the PLO, while the three nationalist parties of Serbs, Croats and Muslims in Bosnia are the only electoral game in town, and in control of their constituencies.

Gerry Adams and his Sinn Féin suffer by comparison. It is the huge gap between the popular support enjoyed by Mr Mandela or Mr Arafat or Mr Izetbegovic and Gerry Adams which makes all the difference to the quest for peace in Northern Ireland.

and to declare emphatically: "I am not a mediator."

Outside arbitration has been central in the Middle East and Bosnia, less so in Northern Ireland because of British hawks rising at the White House's engagement.

All the way back to the multilateral Middle East conference in October 1991 in Madrid, the US and the then Soviet Union were the key external agents, but the European Union also played its part, and the vital breakthrough between Israel and the PLO came in Norway.

In the case of Bosnia, the EU, the United Nations, the Russians and the Americans all laboured towards a deal before the Americans seized the international leadership last year leading to November's breakthrough in Oslo.

In the Central American war zones, where the US was an active agent in or sponsor of much of the violence, it was the UN or other Latin American governments who played the honest broker.

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Racing

Ron Cox believes David Nicholson's enigmatic chaser is on course for another big pay-day

Post time for Barton Bank

BARTON BANK, jump racing's Jekyll and Hyde character, can reveal the better side of his nature...

When he's good, he's very good - as he proved when beating Bradbury Star in the 1993 King George VI Chase at Kempton...

Well clear going to the final fence, he misread Adrian Maguire's signal for a big jump and ploughed through the obstacle, giving the jockey no chance of staying on board.

Since then, Barton Bank has had more ups and downs but it is surely significant that Maguire keeps faith with the sort of jockey which denied him another King George win in 1994.

This is Barton Bank's first run in a handicap chase and he has been given every chance. Rated the equivalent of 180 when he was poised to win his second King George, he has slipped to a mark of 168.

Barton Bank's "bad" side re-surfaced in the latest renewal of the King George, but Nicholson had expressed doubts that the switch to Sandown would not be in the 10-year-old's favour.

At Wetherby in October, Barton Bank showed he retains plenty of ability when making short work of Young Hustler, who was, admittedly, conceding 5lb.

Rough Quest, who had been held up in his work prior to finishing a close second to Unguided Missile at an ear-



Buttercup Joe (left), takes the final flight with Djais, on his way to victory at Kempton yesterday.

lier Ascot meeting, looks loosely handicapped with Percy Smollett.

He was going well when he fell four out in a valuable race at Leopardstown next time, and if he puts his best foot forward for Richard Dunwoody should be well in contention today.

Big Matt will be another major player if he stays the

three miles, but this looks a big chance for Barton Bank (4-10), who at his best is better than a handicapper.

Jodani has been declared for the Racing Post, but is an intended runner at Haydock, where he is also saddled with top weight in the Greenalls Grand National.

Expected to meet the run, Jodani faces a stiff task.

Scottie Banks (2-30) is hardly an original selection, but Tim Eastbury's progressive chaser will be hard to beat.

He has already won over this three and a half miles and, judging by the manner in which he rallied to deny Smith's Bend last time, has not stopped improving yet.

Lo Stregone, Deep Bramble and Earth Summit are lead-

ing Grand National handicaps and Lo Stregone, hitherto the first time since finishing third to Willsford in last year's Scottish National, has the services of Charlie Swan.

Tom Tate's gelding was no match for Scottie Banks at Wetherby in December, but the "Lil' Red" has been in 10 lengths he should make more of a race of it this time.

Back at Kempton, Alderbrook (1-25) should take care of his six rivals in the Levy Board Hurdle. Connections of the long-absent champion have been making all the right noises.

It may seem odd to turn to the all-weather for the day's best bet, but Jodani (4-20) looks one to be on at Lingfield on his return to two miles.

THE 1991 Open champion Ian Baker-Finch made a halfway cut for the first time in almost 17 months yesterday, but did so by the skin of his teeth, equalling the famous par on the 18th hole in the Canon Challenge in Sydney.

The lanky Australian shot a two-under 70 to follow his first-round 78. It was his best performance since he qualified for the final 35 holes of the Queensland Open in October 1994, but he is still adrift of his compatriot John Senden, who leads with an aggregate 137, seven under par.

"I was a happy camper," says Baker-Finch, "but I hit every tree shot as hard as I could," said Baker-Finch.

Skiing

Tomba on top of world at last

ALBERTO TOMBA ended a decade of frustration yesterday with a victory in the giant slalom at the World Alpine Championships at Sierra Nevada, Spain, that gave the Italian his first gold medal in his fifth appearance.

The gold was the third in eight events for the Italian team. Tomba, 28, the three-time Olympic gold medal winner, finished with a time of 1:49.50 to edge out Urs Kappeler of Switzerland - second at the 1991 world championships and again in Lillehammer in 1994 - with 1:50.07 and another Swiss, Michael Von Grunigen, with 1:52.45.

Tomba won a giant slalom bronze in the 1987 championships but failed in the next three championships to finish in the top three. In 1993 at Morioka, Japan, he missed the giant slalom with illness and crashed out of the slalom.

After seeing from the time board that he had won, the Italian's first thought was to celebrate with the "Official Tomba Fan Club" which has sent a dozen or so hard-core supporters from his native Castel de Britti, near Bologna.

After comparing Europe's southernmost resort to Morocco in a television inter-

view, Tomba has had problems with Spanish fans. Two Spaniards in the crowd pulled out a placard yesterday declaring: "Tomba, shut your mouth." But it was quickly grabbed from them by a member of the fan club.

"This was surely one of my most difficult victories," Tomba said. "I heard the whistles and screams when I started and I was really inspired. I was just charging down."

"Then I made a mistake but I managed to right myself as I did in Hinterstoder [in a World Cup race] two weeks ago and I just carried on charging. My goal was a medal, any medal. I was not going for gold."

The last Italian man to win the world championship giant slalom was Tomba's coach Gustavo Thoenig at St Moritz in 1974.

Tomba promised this week that he would race tomorrow's slalom in his own La Bomba line of boxer shorts if he won the giant, but he said yesterday that it was not on the weather for the race. "I don't know what will happen," he said. "But I can tell you that we are going to have a wild party at the Casa Italia [the Italian team club] tonight."

Golf

Baker-Finch finally makes a cut

THE 1991 Open champion Ian Baker-Finch made a halfway cut for the first time in almost 17 months yesterday, but did so by the skin of his teeth, equalling the famous par on the 18th hole in the Canon Challenge in Sydney.

The lanky Australian shot a two-under 70 to follow his first-round 78. It was his best performance since he qualified for the final 35 holes of the Queensland Open in October 1994, but he is still adrift of his compatriot John Senden, who leads with an aggregate 137, seven under par.

"I was a happy camper," says Baker-Finch, "but I hit every tree shot as hard as I could," said Baker-Finch.

"I hit most fairways and I was in control. When I just got up and tried to hit the ball as far as I could, all those other [negative] thoughts just came out of me. I just stumbled on the key myself."

Senden, who had shared the overnight lead on five under, overcame a triple bogey and double bogey to shoot a 70 to lead by one shot from another Australian, Jamie Taylor.

Steve Elkington again hit the front at the Riviera course in California, shooting a four-under-par 67 in the first round of the Nissan Open. The Australian, who won the PGA Championship in 1995, has a record of 10 consecutive cuts here and hit every tree shot as hard as I could," said Baker-Finch.

Kempton card with form for the televised races

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include 1.25 Alderbrook, 1.55 Hunter Tyle, 2.25 High Burn, 3.00 Drabridge, 3.35 Zebell, 4.10 Barton Bank, 4.40 Seaside Cash, 5.10 Chiffel.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include 1.25 ULTY BOARD HURDLE, 1.55 Hunter Tyle, 2.25 High Burn, 3.00 Drabridge, 3.35 Zebell, 4.10 Barton Bank, 4.40 Seaside Cash, 5.10 Chiffel.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include 1.55 DOVRETTA HURDLE, 2.25 High Burn, 3.00 Drabridge, 3.35 Zebell, 4.10 Barton Bank, 4.40 Seaside Cash, 5.10 Chiffel.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include 2.25 SHERIFF HURDLE, 3.00 Drabridge, 3.35 Zebell, 4.10 Barton Bank, 4.40 Seaside Cash, 5.10 Chiffel.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include 3.00 HONOURABLE HURDLE, 3.35 Zebell, 4.10 Barton Bank, 4.40 Seaside Cash, 5.10 Chiffel.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Time. Races include 3.35 VOICE HURDLE, 4.10 Barton Bank, 4.40 Seaside Cash, 5.10 Chiffel.

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Haydock with form for the TV races

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Rugby League

Gregory puts paid to doubt

Paul Fitzpatrick on the cocky coach who plans to give Saints the Wigan treatment

ANDY GREGORY'S capacity for springing surprises was a strength that made him one of the finest post-war scrum-halfers. Unorthodox, unpredictable, aggressive and with a cockiness born of an innate self-confidence, he could drive opponents to distraction and single-handedly destroy them.

He came into the game, he says, not to make friends but to win things. And he has done so. He went to Wembley three times, including for the first time for Great Britain against Australia in 1990, and was never on the losing side. It will always rankle with him that he was never part of a Great Britain side that won a series of appearances for Great Britain against Australia, but one performance alone, at Sydney in 1988, will ensure him an imperishable place in Ashes history.

Now he has guaranteed his Salford team a place in Challenge Cup history, after plotting the downfall of Wigan at The Willows two weeks ago - his old club's first defeat in the competition in 44 games.

St Helens, the new favourites for the centenary, will tread the same dangerous path this afternoon and will pray it does not lead to the grave. It could do so if Salford play as impressively as they did against Wigan, but that would be asking a lot of Gregory's men.

One effect of Salford's victory over Wigan was to inject much-needed vitality into a tournament which increasingly since 1988 had been crying out for a new script. Another was to demand a new and respectful assessment of Andy Gregory the coach.

John Wilkinson, Salford's chairman, was told by more than one sceptic last March that he had opted for the wrong man when Gregory, who had arrived

at Salford via Leeds in 1993, was given charge of the side full-time in succession to the Australian coach Garry Jack.

Gregory can see why people had their doubts. He admits that on the field he was a hot-head at times and had brushes with referees. He walked out on Widnes, his first club, and left Warrington, his second, in sour circumstances.

Did he have the necessary self-control to be a successful coach? Did he have the tact? Above all, perhaps, did he have the patience? He is not, he admits, the best of spectators and possibly single-handedly destroyed Manchester United than to watch Salford.

That Gregory, at 34, is a young coach to watch was proved beyond question over a Centenary season which emphasised how un-lucky Salford were not to be in the first Super League which starts next month.

The First Division was more competitive than the Centenary Championship but Salford won it emphatically from such rivals as Keighley and Featherstone, and from Widnes, Hull and Wakefield, three clubs still in the last eight of the Challenge Cup.

In winning the title Gregory showed that the many hours he had spent in the company of Doug Laughton, Graham Lowe and John Monie - three of the most influential coaches in his career - had been time well spent. He has built a fit and successful side, fostered an excellent team spirit while pursuing a strong disciplinary line, and in his man-management has shown flexibility without leaving anyone in doubt who is in charge.

It was a source of great satisfaction to Gregory this week that Salford signed two youngsters, Robert Russell and Ricky Halliwell, who were being pursued by bigger clubs, Bradford and Leeds among them. "That shows people want to come to this club,"

His ambition for Salford is unambiguous. "I want to get them into Super League and I want to keep them there. I want a successful Academy side and a successful Alliance side so that players are pushing for places right the way through the club."

But he has another objective too, and that is to ensure that Salford's season does not end this afternoon.



Basket of tricks... Gregory sits it out behind Salford's gromd. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

Successful Alliance side so that players are pushing for places right the way through the club.

But he has another objective too, and that is to ensure that Salford's season does not end this afternoon.

"We did our homework on Wigan and we have done our homework on Saints," he says.

Court casts doubt on Super League

Paul Fitzpatrick

THE European Super League, due to kick off in Paris at the end of next month, will go ahead in spite of Super League's emphatic defeat in its court battle with the Australian Rugby League.

Much less certain to take place are the world club championship play-offs planned for September and Great Britain's tour of Australia which is due to start at the end of the same month.

The play-offs, between the leading eight clubs from Europe and Australia, were to have provided the dazzling and lucrative culmination to the first Super League season. They were also a persuasive reason for the game's switch to summer.

They could have produced big money for the four successful European clubs: as much as £3 million for two weeks' work. This puts into perspective the £1.7 million sponsorship deal over three years that the Rugby Football League signed recently with Stones Bitter. The tour, too, would have been a guaranteed earner.

But these events - and many other issues - are shrouded in doubt after Justice James Burchett's ruling in Sydney yesterday.

After a 51-day hearing which started last September he found in favour of the ARL on all major points of contention and ordered the eight breakaway Super League clubs to return to the ARL.

Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, backer of the Super League, is to appeal and will consider its options over the weekend. But it seems next to impossible that its competition in Australia for 10 clubs will start next Friday as planned.

Justice Burchett's ruling was a setback but he said News Corporation's "commitment to our players, clubs and followers is unchanged".

With considerable understatement Cowley admitted that the judge's ruling was "a setback" but he said News Corporation's "commitment to our players, clubs and followers is unchanged".

This whole messy, bitter, complex and damaging feud began last year when Murdoch, in an attempt to win the Australian rugby league television rights from Kerry Packer, announced his plans for a breakaway Super League.

Court proceedings were initiated by News Corporation, which claimed that agreements signed between the ARL and the New South Wales RL and its 20 clubs in November 1994 and February 1995 were invalid.

The ARL counter-sued, giving 29 reasons why Super League should not start a rival competition before December 31 1995 - when Packer's TV rights and Australia Burchett agreed with all its major submissions.

Whether the eight rebel clubs will return to the ARL remains to be seen. They have already held a meeting and the indications are that they will risk flouting Justice Burchett's ruling.

That could leave many top-class players in limbo and it is possible that such outstanding talents as Bradley Clyde, Ricky Stuart and Laurie Daley from Canberra Raiders, Allan Langer and Steve Renouf from Brisbane Broncos, and the Englishman Denis Batts and Andy Platt of Auckland Warriors may soon be looking for English clubs to play for in the coming months.

In the short term that might prove good for the European Super League. Long term the prospects are for further damage. The ARL, marginalised for so long, is suddenly back in a position of strength and likely to be swilling with money when its damages are paid.

Bentley to face Leeds as appeal finds him clumsy, not malicious

JOHN BENTLEY is free to play in Halifax's Challenge Cup quarter-final with Leeds at Thrum Hall tomorrow after his appeal against a one-match suspension proved successful yesterday, writes Paul Fitzpatrick.

The appeals committee felt that Bentley's high tackle on the Sheffield Eagles player Lynton Stott last Sunday was clumsy rather than malicious and his previous good record was taken into account.

Bentley's Halifax colleague Mike Umaga had his three-match suspension confirmed and he and the forward Michael Jackson, who was also suspended for three matches but did not appeal, will be absent against Leeds.

Kevin Iro, the New Zealand international centre, who has not played since tearing a pectoral muscle against Bradford Bulls in December, returns to the Leeds side.

It is Leeds' only change from the team that beat Warrington in the last round, when Craig James was the centenary Zealander has now joined the Australian club Manly.

Halifax and Leeds will both have been inspired by Wigan's early exit at Salford a fortnight ago. Leeds probably have most cause to celebrate, having been beaten at Wembley by Wigan for the past two seasons.

Leeds's half-back Graham Holroyd said: "Let's hope it is a case of third time lucky. With Wigan knocked out it has lifted everyone's spirits." Halifax expect a 7,500 capacity crowd and Leeds's coach Dean Bell said: "It is a very intimidating atmosphere. The crowd are right on top of you and when it's full it is worse."

Doncaster runners and riders

Table of horse racing results for Doncaster, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Musselburgh programme

Table of horse racing results for Musselburgh, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Lingfield all-weather Flat card

Table of all-weather horse racing results for Lingfield, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Results

Table of horse racing results for various tracks, including Haydock, Kempton, and Southwell.

Haydock

Table of horse racing results for Haydock, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Kempton

Table of horse racing results for Kempton, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Southwell

Table of horse racing results for Southwell, including race numbers, names, and winners.

RACELINE logo and contact information for Newcastle.

Newcastle doubt text regarding James Hinchinson's meeting on Monday.



Soccer

Now Batty moves to Newcastle

Ian Ross

DAVID BATTY'S acrimonious relationship with Blackburn Rovers ended in predictable divorce yesterday when he agreed to join Newcastle United.

Barring a dispute over the terms of his contract, the former England international midfielder will move from Premiership champions to Premiership leaders in a £3.75 million deal on Monday.

"David will receive a medical examination and then discuss personal terms with us over the weekend," said Newcastle's chief executive, Freddie Fletcher.

Batty's arrival on Tyneside will take Newcastle's spending to almost £25 million in under a year and will come less than a month after a club-record £5.7 million was invested in the Colombian international striker Faustino Asprilla.

Batty's departure from Ewood Park was regarded as little more than a formality after an unpleasant public falling-out with his manager, Ray Harford, last month. But Newcastle's manager Kevin Keegan had to raise his initial £3.5 million bid to get his man.

"He's the type of player we have not got here," said Keegan. "I have been interested in him for a long time — ever before he was injured last season. Now he is back to his best and I'm delighted he's joining us. He is another string to our bow."

Although some Newcastle fans seem less than thrilled by the deal, Keegan brushed aside the doubts. "You want to see some of the letters I had when I signed Asprilla," he said.

said. "But he answered them in the right way, and so will Batty."

The midfielder is something of a talisman. After playing an integral part in Leeds United's championship success of 1992, he was controversially sold to Blackburn only 17 months later.

Despite sustaining a serious injury he made a belated contribution to Blackburn's Premiership success last season, playing sufficient games to pick up a second winners' medal.

Meanwhile, Aston Villa's manager Brian Little returned to his former club Leicester City with chequebook in hand yesterday to sign the England Under-21 forward Julian Joachim for £1.5 million.

If Joachim passes his medical he is likely to line up against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park this afternoon.

"He will give us extra competition for places and if he does get into the first team it is up to him to try and stay there," said Little. "He is the right age and calibre and I believe he will do well for us."

Sheff Wednesdays yesterday completed the £200,000 signing of the Scottish international Andy Walker from Celtic.

Cynthia Bateman adds: Defections continued from the Football Association of Ireland yesterday, with Finbar Flood, a distinguished member of the 20-man executive council, following Sean Connolly, chief executive, Joe McGrath, national coaching director, and Michael Morris, the accountant, out of the door.

The latest resignation fuelled speculation that the five-man executive will soon face a vote of no confidence.

Vogts tribute to 'best ever'

HELMUT SCHOEN, the astute-minded West German's winning World Cup campaign in 1974, died on Thursday night aged 80.

Schoen was coach from November 1964 until June 1978 and his side were World Cup runners-up to England in 1966 and Germany semi-finalists in 1970 before their triumph four years later. They won the European Championship in 1972 and were runners-up in 1976.

Berti Vogts, the current coach, said: "He saw only the good in players and in people in general. He did an unbelievable amount for the players and, for me, was the most successful ever."

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, is to join a UEFA working party on the future of players in Europe in March.

the wake of the Bosman judgment will go to Brussels next week to discuss the players' viewpoint with European Commission officials.

The Football Association yesterday began an inquiry into an incident during Birmingham's Coca-Cola Cup semi-final first-leg home defeat by Leeds on February 11 in which Leeds's Gary McAllister was hit on the head by a snooker ball.

Paul Kirby, a former business partner of the England coach Terry Venables, was sent to a doctor by a High Court judge yesterday and ordered to return with a note about the finger he sliced on a box file of court papers in the witness box on Thursday.

Venables claims Kirby owes him £144,369 for clearing the debts of a failed pub company.

Obituary, page 18

Old Firm pincer movement on European target-men

Patrick Glenn

WHILE Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, travelled to Germany yesterday to check on the Bayer Leverkusen striker Ulf Kirsten, Tommy Burns of Celtic stayed at home to try to sign the Portuguese international striker Jorge Cadete from Sporting Lisbon.

The pincer movement on Europe was an indication of the Old Firm's need for reinforcements in a 10-match run-in to the Premier Division championship. Smith's interest in Kirsten had been known since last weekend, but Cadete's arrival at Parkhead was unexpected. The 27-year-old is said to have bought his own contract from Sporting and is able, as a free agent, to negotiate terms on his own behalf.

He is a proven striker of international class, having scored two of the goals in Portugal's 5-0 victory in Lisbon

which ended Scotland's interest in the 1994 World Cup. He also scored both of Sporting's goals in a 2-0 victory over Celtic in the UEFA Cup in 1993. Cadete is unlikely to be involved in Celtic's home match against Partick Thistle this afternoon. With Rangers playing Aberdeen at Pittodrie tomorrow, this is an opportunity for Burns's side to share the league leadership, at least temporarily. They are three points behind the champions, but with a significantly inferior goal difference.

Smith's pursuit of Kirsten may not result in a catch for some time. The 30-year-old striker, who earned 49 caps for East Germany and has picked up 17 since unification, is out of contract at the end of the season and may wait until then in order to negotiate a better deal.

Smith planned to watch him in the home match against Borussia Mönchengladbach last night and fly to Aberdeen today.



Touch and go... Scott Green puts in some hard yards as his team-mates take the opportunity to catch their breath

PHOTOGRAPH MICHAEL STEELE

Bolton's hat in the ring

WHEN Uncle Billy Bateman, a keen Manchester City supporter, was a lad and Bolton were playing Manchester United, his older brother Harry used to send him down the cobbled street where they lived to cadge old caps and hats from neighbours. Thus armed, they would station themselves among the 80,000 on Burnley Park's terraces and hurl the hats into the air whenever Bolton scored.

Metaphorically, Bolton supporters will be doing the same thing tomorrow as Wanderers try to put one over Manchester United. By the time they meet by Leeds on February 11 and Newcastle at the top may be back to nine points, if Kevin Keegan's team defeat Manchester City at Maine Road today.

"City generally do us one good turn a season," said Alex Ferguson. "But if he gains an advantage there, Bolton will be desperate to beat it back to Newcastle on Sunday."

"We only hate United" is one of the favourite chants of Wanderers supporters, who were recently praised as Keegan as the best fans he had come across — outside Tyneside, of course. Only a cynic would dare suggest he had tomorrow's match in mind, for there is nothing Bolton fans would like better than to poot the old enemy's party.

"The atmosphere will be electric," said a supporters' spokesman, Neil Leonard. "But I'm not looking forward to it. It's a hardship, I work in north Manchester and the amount of ridicule I get because we are bottom of the Premiership is cruel. We have become a bit of a joke, which is rather sad."

"A lot of nice people are Manchester United fans but I come up against some representatives of the Manchester United Independent Supporters' Association and they are very patronising."

"It gets up my nose. But this game will be like a cup final for us."

Should Bolton pull off the coup — and their reputation as a side who can lift themselves for special occasions is second to none — after last season's League Cup final appearance, this term's league wins came against Blackburn, Arsenal, Wimbledon and Middlesbrough — then Colin Todd's team will be for-



Searching for the formula... the Burnley Park faithful in sombre mood

Cynthia Bateman on Wanderers' wish to derail an old enemy's title challenge in tomorrow's version of the Lancashire cup

given for a season spent almost entirely at the bottom of the Premiership table.

"We have suffered a lot, we really have," said Leonard, a 51-year-old debt-collector. He has been watching Bolton for 40 years; since the days when steam locomotives, suddenly finding shunting work on a Saturday afternoon, huffed and puffed along the line above the back of the ground and people hung out of passenger trains waving and shooting at this exotic but locally possible for Bolton to stay up people will take a crumb of comfort from that.

"But on the whole the feeling in the town is that they are enjoying the Premiership even if they are bottom. They are enjoying being in the company of the Newcastle and the Liverpool, and people are hoping they might take one or two scalps before the end of the season."

Sharrock, who had seen Wanderers drop from the old First Division down to the Fourth, watched their revival during Bruce Rioch's three seasons. Apart from getting results, Rioch somehow fitted nicely with the psyche of Bolton people. His hard-work, no-nonsense, short-back-and-sides approach matched their own work ethic, and there

were other touches that endeared him to them.

"I had Bruce Rioch stayed we would have been able to attract better players," insisted Leonard. "There was a terrific spirit at the club then. He ran it like a family. If you looked one they all winced."

Todd, the survivor as manager of the former partnership with Roy McFarland, is adamant that that spirit still exists. "But we knew it wasn't going to be easy, and we hoped that if we could just consolidate our position in the Premiership it would stand us in good stead in years to come. I must confess I thought we would do a lot better than this in terms of points."

"From the players' point of view I think they thought that they had a good cup run last season and had shown they could beat Premier League sides and so they could do it again in the Premiership. But it doesn't work like that."

"In the FA Cup the underdogs will always come good somewhere along the line, but in the Premiership circum-

stances begin to catch up with you and then it's hard to keep your heads above water."

Todd believes Bolton need a miracle to stay up, and there are those who believe he and McFarland were handed an impossible task from the start.

"It was already halfway through the close season when Bruce left," explained Sharrock. "The new John management team, which was a flawed concept anyway, were picking up the pieces less than a month before the players were due back for pre-season training."

"Lots of free-transfer players they might have wanted had been snapped up by them, and some of the older players they could perhaps have got a couple of years out of had gone elsewhere."

"Roy McFarland was alarmed at how few players there were in the squad. He only had 21, of which two were long-term injuries and two were goalkeepers. And the fixture list didn't give Bolton much of a chance."

New signings did little to alleviate the criticism that Bolton would not have lost Jason McAteer to Liverpool if Rioch had stayed. "The arrival of the successful £1.5 million Serbian Sasa Curcic only added to the sense of frustration at what might have been had McAteer stayed to play with him."

"The overall result is that we are left with a feeling that we have enjoyed the Premiership but it is a bit of an anticlimax and it seems to have gone so quickly. You blink and say, 'Well, that was the Premiership,'" said Sharrock.

His real fear is that if the miracle does not happen, Bolton's new-found support — they have gained 10,000 season ticket holders in the past two seasons, helping gates to an average of 17,000 — will disappear. "People want to watch a winning side. I don't want to be a prophet of doom but I wonder how many will stay if we go down."

"Football is big business now and we have got to stay up. We have given away too many late goals. If games lasted 90 minutes we would be in the top six. But if we are going to go down, let's go out with a bang."

ON ONE level, Thursday's managerial changes are attempts to turn back the clock: Graham Taylor's reversion to the yellow, red and black brick road; Swansea trying to recapture their great days under John Toshack through another Anfield old boy, Ian Molloy.

On another level the appointments represent a healthy step forward, with not only Luther Blissett becoming one of the few blacks to get a coaching job but Molloy, one of the few foreigners to do likewise.

However, both announcements also prove that nothing changes. For football people continue unerringly to choose the right way at the wrong time. For all the non-horticultural references Riton John might have used in urging an end to Taylor's turnip tag, what did he choose? "It needs to be buried."

And perhaps the traditionally reticent Molloy would like to rephrase his assertion that "I can make a bigger impact on the field than I can in the office".

THREE men called Cocker have had top-10 hits. Can you name them? (Answer below.)

ONE HAS to worry about our children's education. Not because of falling school standards or the influence of video games but because of No. 519 in the Merlin Collection of football stickers. "Did you know?" it asks, "that Ian Rush celebrated his 600th league appearance for Liverpool by scoring a hat-trick against Blackburn in the Coca-Cola Cup?" (Spotted by Iain Woods of Sutton Coldfield.)

APPARENTLY Joe Merrett sent his teams out with the message: "The grass is green, the paint is fresh, now go out there and play." Brian Slough of Kettering wonders if, given the recent drug scandals, it should now read: "The grass is fresh, the paint is green..."

FORGET pay-per-view. In Newcastle, fans who have pint-per-view. Publicans are cashing in on a TV loophole which allows them to tune in to live Premiership games broadcast by a Norwegian satellite station.

The pubs have bought special dishes and show matches on the telly. The ground turned down and a local radio commentary playing instead. For Newcastle's recent game with Middlesbrough, the Old George in Cloth Market was so full the landlord rigged up a second TV in the car-park where 150 fans stood watching in the rain.

Peter Robinson, who runs the shop that sells the special dishes, even says: "We had a recent game on in the shop window and about 100 people watched from the pavement."

SOME spooky things have been going on at Brentford. Their young midfielder Marcus Bent bought a mirror for his room at Christmas, slipped carrying it through the door, fell on the broken glass and required 44 stitches in a neck wound.

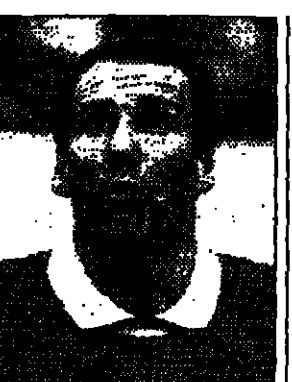
His seven years of hair loss have already begun. The other week on the train to Carlisle he was carrying a cup of tea for the club physio when he spilled scalding water over his foot. Last Saturday he required three stitches in a leg wound picked up in the game against Bristol City.

And it was that game which kicked off another supernatural sequence. The match began 15 minutes late because of a bomb scare. Brentford then went 1-0 up, 2-1 down and drew 2-2.

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ANSWER: Joe Cocker, Jarvis Cocker and Les Cocker (Back Home, 1970).



Performance of the week: Paul Merson (Arsenal), whose inspired display at Villa Park in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals went unrewarded.

AN OTHER

A UNIQUE collection of headgear distinguished this quick-witted son of Bethnal Green's formative years. Having begun amid elderly red-coats, he stalled alongside some fiery Percies, but then blossomed anew after ranging further west. Eventually he went into window repairs but later became better known for services to wig and pen.

Last week: Peter Larimer, Newcastle United, York City, Toronto Blizzard, Leeds United.

TEAM SHEET

Blackburn v Liverpool

Flowers recall the winger Stuart Ripley after an ankle injury but will be without the midfielder's back-up, and the striker Mike Newell, who starts a two-match suspension. The Birmingham defender Andy Preece is suspended for youth product Tony Grant hangs on to his initial place. The midfielder Joe Parkinson and the striker Duran Ferguson face fitness tests, and Barry Horne and Anders Lindegar are named. Forest, denied the services of Stuart Pearce (knee) for a seventh game, may hand the midfielder Chris Allen, on loan from Oxford, an immediate debut if Ian Woan fails to recover from a hamstring strain.

Manchester City v Newcastle

The versatile defender Scott Hiley, who played under City's manager Alan Ball at Exeter and has been signed on loan from Birmingham, is to come in for Michael Prosser, who along with the midfielder Gary Hignett is suspended. Newcastle, aiming to bounce back from their 2-0 reverse at West Ham, will link David Ginola with Faustino Asprilla for the first time

as the French striker has completed a three-match ban. But the midfielder Robert Lea misses a second match with a groin injury.

Southampton v Chelsea

Barry Venison is doubtful, despite recovering from a hamstring strain which has kept him out of action for two games. He damaged his back in training this week and has a late fitness test alongside the full-back defender. The transfer-linked midfielder Tommy Wrightington is standing by to deputise again, and the winger Mark Hughes back after a two-match suspension but the defender Frank Sinclair starts a two-match ban. Glenn Hoddle may keep faith with the veteran midfielder Nigel Spink.

Tottenham v Sheffield Wed

The Spurs midfielder David Howells, on the bench for Monday's abandoned FA Cup fifth-round tie at Nottingham Forest, may make his first appearance since Christmas, giving him a narrow escape from Chelsea.

with Scot Campbell switching to right-back in place of Dean Austin, who has had back surgery. The winger Andy Strain, capped at the City Ground, returns to face his former club. The goalkeeper Chris Woods and the leading scorer David Hirst may return for Wednesday as the manager David Platt considers a reshuffle for the trip to his former club. Woods has lost out to Xavier Peggus for three games and Hirst's hamstring has caused two matches.

West Ham v Arsenal

The manager's manager Harry Redknapp is hoping that the Croatian centre-back Steven Etto will recover from a hamstring injury sustained in Wednesday's 2-0 defeat of Newcastle as the Londoners stage a sixth successive Premiership win. Arsenal will be without their leading scorer Ian Wright (hamstring), John Hartson and Paul Dickey are most likely to operate and David Platt is set for his first start in six games.

Wimbledon v Aston Villa

The transfer-linked midfielder Vincent Jones, out for nine matches, may see a recall as the interim manager, in cover for the leading scorer Dean Sturges, and the defender Chris Parry, who start in the starting line-up. The Aston Villa injury victim Dean Blackwood may miss his return for Wednesday as the manager David Platt considers a reshuffle for the trip to his former club. Woods has lost out to Xavier Peggus for three games and Hirst's hamstring has caused two matches.

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Swans begin bulk buying

Soccer Diary

Martin Thorpe

ON ONE level, Thursday's managerial changes are attempts to turn back the clock: Graham Taylor's reversion to the yellow, red and black brick road; Swansea trying to recapture their great days under John Toshack through another Anfield old boy, Ian Molloy.

On another level the appointments represent a healthy step forward, with not only Luther Blissett becoming one of the few blacks to get a coaching job but Molloy, one of the few foreigners to do likewise.

However, both announcements also prove that nothing changes. For football people continue unerringly to choose the right way at the wrong time. For all the non-horticultural references Riton John might have used in urging an end to Taylor's turnip tag, what did he choose? "It needs to be buried."

And perhaps the traditionally reticent Molloy would like to rephrase his assertion that "I can make a bigger impact on the field than I can in the office".

THREE men called Cocker have had top-10 hits. Can you name them? (Answer below.)

ONE HAS to worry about our children's education. Not because of falling school standards or the influence of video games but because of No. 519 in the Merlin Collection of football stickers. "Did you know?" it asks, "that Ian Rush celebrated his 600th league appearance for Liverpool by scoring a hat-trick against Blackburn in the Coca-Cola Cup?" (Spotted by Iain Woods of Sutton Coldfield.)

APPARENTLY Joe Merrett sent his teams out with the message: "The grass is green, the paint is fresh, now go out there and play." Brian Slough of Kettering wonders if, given the recent drug scandals, it should now read: "The grass is fresh, the paint is green..."

FORGET pay-per-view. In Newcastle, fans who have pint-per-view. Publicans are cashing in on a TV loophole which allows them to tune in to live Premiership games broadcast by a Norwegian satellite station.

The pubs have bought special dishes and show matches on the telly. The ground turned down and a local radio commentary playing instead. For Newcastle's recent game with Middlesbrough, the Old George in Cloth Market was so full the landlord rigged up a second TV in the car-park where 150 fans stood watching in the rain.

Peter Robinson, who runs the shop that sells the special dishes, even says: "We had a recent game on in the shop window and about 100 people watched from the pavement."

SOME spooky things have been going on at Brentford. Their young midfielder Marcus Bent bought a mirror for his room at Christmas, slipped carrying it through the door, fell on the broken glass and required 44 stitches in a neck wound.

His seven years of hair loss have already begun. The other week on the train to Carlisle he was carrying a cup of tea for the club physio when he spilled scalding water over his foot. Last Saturday he required three stitches in a leg wound picked up in the game against Bristol City.

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England loses

A

clubs start league



Swans begin bulk buying



As Mike Atherton's star has dwindled since Christmas Hansie Cronje's has risen. Tomorrow they meet again, in the World Cup

Mike Selvey reports from Rawalpindi

Toss and turn of fortune... Atherton and Cronje

# England's talisman loses his touch

ALTHOUGH it would be hard to tell from Mike Atherton's demeanour, which gives away about as much as a United supporter on a City flag day, the England captain must have cause for concern. Collectively his side are playing the sort of ramshackle cricket that characterised their last few weeks in South Africa; it has led to one disastrous defeat against New Zealand and a brace of comprehensive but inauspicious wins against the United Arab Emirates and Holland. The odds on them winning the World Cup — 8-1 before the tournament — are lengthening by the day.

On an individual basis the man who is the backbone of the England innings in one-day cricket, and not three months ago at The Wanderers played one of the great innings in Test match history. It is not a recent streak, for since he made 85 to provide the foundation of the team's win in Bloemfontein — their only one in the seven-match series against South Africa — seven innings have brought only 71 runs. Then there is his captaincy. On Thursday afternoon, with the opposition's innings little more than four overs old, the new ball swinging away nicely for Dominic Cork and Phil DeFreitas and one wicket already in the bag, he lost the plot, removing his slip fielders on the strength, it seemed, of a boundary edged along the ground through the slips, another through midwicket and a third glanced to fine leg. Had this been Australia, chasing 200 to win, then he might have had cause for concern. But this was Holland, a

part-time team in their first big competition chasing 280 against one bowler with more than 100 Test wickets and another who could end up with 300. It was a mistake, partly because of the net effect on the bowling, which was to make them bowl too straight, and partly because of the negative message it sent out: of course we know we can beat these guys but better to be safe, eh? It may have been pragmatic but pragmatism never won a World Cup. Outwardly Atherton is not the least bit concerned. He said after the Holland game that he did not feel under pressure at any stage and was not worried about his lack of runs. "My turn will come" is his mantra. He has always taken a fatalistic practical approach to his run-scoring, believing himself neither to be in form nor out of it at any given time. But, one wonders, if this approach is Atherton's way of coping with the failures that can hit any sportsman, what effect does it have on the rest of the team? In each of the past two calendar years he has exceeded 1,000 runs, and such is his status that he has become almost a talismanic figure. If Atherton gets runs, the side may not win but they do not lose. If the captain fails,



No worries... Atherton is 'not concerned' by his loss of form but it is affecting his captaincy and the team

though, the team subconsciously seem to wonder how they can succeed. In the one-day games, where Graeme Hick is very much the key player, failure by Atherton is less significant. Yet his mood — never, perhaps, sufficiently upbeat for the hurly-burly of the limited-overs game, despite the need for a cool head — and the way it translates to the players has a debilitating effect on the spirit. England and Atherton will need to be at the peak of their game tomorrow when they meet South Africa, their sternest test of the tournament yet. Hansie Cronje, whose batting form has flourished as Atherton's has diminished, has seen

his side burgeoning as a result, playing with supreme confidence, well-drilled bowling, fielding that at times defies belief, and always a game plan. Although England have all but qualified for the quarter-finals, Raymond Illingworth recognises the size of the task that confronts them and the need to win their final two group matches to restore the winning habit. "They are the form team at present and a win would be very pleasant," he said. "But we should have won four of those games over there. We were very stupid. Probably they set out to win the series first and we switched things around. In fact we didn't learn a great deal from

it and really should have played our best side for the first four games." Quite what that remains unclear, England appear no closer to a settled plan than they were a month ago. Who, for example, should open the batting? In the last two games Atherton, whose view to England is in batting through the innings, has taken the middle order; opening, particularly when chasing a small total against the UAE, might have been in his and his side's interest in view of the strength of the South Africa seam attack. Illingworth concedes as much: "Any out-of-form batsman needs to play an innings to get himself going again. The South Africans squared

him up a bit and he's vulnerable around off stump." Alec Stewart is also going through a dreadful period and may easily lose his place to Robin Smith, who is championing the bit after injury. South Africa, meanwhile, have only an injury to Andrew Hudson to concern them. Their bowling should be at full strength on a pitch which, unlike that in Peshawar, seemed to have more pace than the Pakistan norm. The biggest debate for them will centre on whether Paul Adams or Pat Symcox takes the spinner's role. Adams, say the South Africans, will play sooner rather than later. Bearing in mind last winter, that probably means tomorrow.

## Pakistan put faith in psychiatrist

PAKISTAN, who play their opening World Cup game against United Arab Emirates in Gujranwala today, have employed a professional psychiatrist to help their players win the World Cup. Intikhab Alam, Pakistan's manager, said that Nazir Aziz is used to "re-

late how to win. It is a process of mentally fine-tuning them. It is all about how to relax during a match, how to concentrate and about self-belief." Calcutta's Eden Gardens will host one of the World Cup semi-finals, after a row over crowd safety was resolved yesterday.

## Ice Hockey Clubs start new league

CLUBS outside the Superleague have formed a British National Ice Hockey League. Although it does not seem to promote itself as a rival to the Superleague, the BNHL spokesman, the Slough Jets general manager, the Gay Stefan, yesterday claimed it would "mirror" what is intended to be a fully professional league planned for September. The new BNHL will come close to what the Superleague are doing but on a smaller level," he said. Led by the Durham Wasps, who are owned by Sir John Hill, plus the Sheffield Steelers and the Manchester Storm, seven of the current British League's 24 clubs are believed to be committed to the Superleague. Nottingham and Pile are thought likely to follow, with the intention of the new Newcastle Warriors in early next year. The British Ice Hockey association's policy of allowing both leagues the right to administer their day-to-day affairs is seen as an important step forward. "We are now in a position where we control our own destiny," said Stefan. "The BNHL must prove to the public and sponsors that we have our act together, know which way we are going, can run the show in a very professional manner and not make the mistakes that maybe have happened in the past." Sir John Hill's planning application for an indoor arena behind St James' Park, intended as a home for the Durham Wasps, was yesterday rejected by Newcastle City Council.

## Hockey Big guns face major test

CANNOCK's Rob Crutchley and Guildford's Ian Jennings, the season's leading scorers in the league with 24 and 18 goals respectively, face their top two goalscapers, Simon Mason of Reading and David Luckes of East Grinstead, in the National League this weekend. Cannock, who returned to the top on Sunday, visit third-placed Reading tomorrow while the cup holders, fifth-placed Guildford, are at home to an in-form East Grinstead side who are now sixth. With Cannock averaging five goals a game, Mason and Reading may be in for another busy afternoon. Last season, moreover, they defeated Reading 2-0 in the league and 5-3 in the cup. Cannock will also have to adjust for a rare outing on a water-based pitch, while Reading come into the game after what their coach John Copp called "our worst performance of the season", a 1-1 draw at Surbiton. Copp believes the keys to the game are "keeping Kalin Takher under control and retaining the ball long enough to play". With Southgate entertaining seventh-placed Surbiton tomorrow, only fifth-placed Old Loughtonians of the challengers look assured of winning this weekend. Having qualified for the European Indoor A division last week, they can now concentrate on the outdoor game and should improve their position and goal difference at Stourport. Alan Budd tomorrow becomes the first umpire to take control of 100 National League games when he officiates at St Albans, who entertain Canterbury.

## Motor Racing Schumacher's Ferrari is the pits as problems refuse to go away

THE Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher finally managed to test his new Ferrari F310 at Estoril yesterday but ground to a halt with electrical problems after negotiating only two bends. The car was towed back to the pit lane and pushed into the Ferrari garage by disgruntled mechanics. Schumacher went out again in the car later in the day and appeared to have no immediate problems but, with the new season just over two weeks away, recurring technical problems with the car have been disappointing for the German. He left the tried and tested Benetton-Renault for the legendary Italian team in a \$32 million deal with the aim of settling in with the new car this year for a serious title challenge in 1997. While waiting for days to test the F310, he had been lapping Estoril with last year's car fitted with the new engine, but even that gave him trouble as his first day's testing this week was troubled by Ferrari's continued testing with the No. 2 driver Eddie Irvine in the team's Fiorano track, hoping to iron out gearbox and engine faults before putting the car through its first competitive paces. In yesterday morning's session, Williams-Renault's Canadian rookie Jacques Villeneuve set the fastest time around the 2.701-mile circuit, 1min 19.85sec. Second fastest was Austria's Gerhard Berger in his Benetton-Renault.

## Badminton England in a Wright state over Uber qualification

ENGLAND'S women will have to wait until the last moment today before finding out whether they have qualified for May's world team finals in Hong Kong after losing to Denmark yesterday. They badly missed Joanne Wright, the doubles specialist who flew home on Thursday suffering from flu, in their 5-0 defeat by the strong Danish team. Joanne Muggillidge was moved from the top singles spot to play doubles with Wright's regular partner Julie Bradbury, and Tanya Groves was given a world team championships debut in the third singles. The young left-hander responded with an encouraging performance, leading 7-5 in the final game against Anne

## Badminton Richard Jago in Prague

SONDERGAARD before losing 6-11, 11-4, 11-8. Wright's presence today could have made a big difference to their chances of reaching the Uber Cup finals, but her departure has enhanced her chances of qualification for the Olympics. Wright's presence from two wins are the maximum available from this event, and by missing yesterday's match she achieved them, whereas a defeat would have reduced her total. It was dismissed as a coincidence by the British Olympic manager Andy Goode. "I did say players didn't have to play in the Thomas or Uber Cups if they didn't want to, but it never became a policy just to use these events to qualify for Atlanta," he said. "In any case Jo wanted to play for England."

## Ice Hockey Results

Table with multiple columns listing various sports results including Soccer, Golf, Tennis, Basketball, Bowls, Snooker, and Ice Hockey. The table contains names of players, teams, and scores for various events.

Advertisement for 'Something Old Something New' featuring a wedding cake. The text reads: 'Something Old Something New. It was out but now it's back. The resurgence of the British wedding, tomorrow in the Observer.' The image shows a multi-tiered wedding cake with white frosting and red accents.

## Athletics Another Stern test

THE pressure on young athletes, be it from parents, schools or coaches, is immense. Many, at the first hint of adversity, turn their backs on the sport and never return; a few nurture an abiding belief that a resurrection is possible. One such is Britain's Vicky Stern, who will be running against France this afternoon in Glasgow at the ripe old age of 27. Stern, nee Quinn, has been out of the sport for more than a decade, during which time she qualified as a nurse, married a doctor and produced twin boys. Now she is back with a chance of representing Britain in the European Indoor Championships in Stockholm next month and perhaps joining an Olympic place. She returned last year, winning the Midland 800 metres title, and then recently captured the AAA indoor title. Stern, at 15, was told she should take a year off because of her injury problems and she simply drifted away. "When I realised it was now or never, and Kelly's success has been a tremendous inspiration." Kelly Holmes, one of Britain's main medal hopes in Atlanta this summer, was similarly lost to the sport, although not for as long. Stern has gained motivation from this. "I looked back at the girls I was running against when I was 14 and none of them is competing now. After I had my children, I realised it was now or never, and Kelly's success has been a tremendous inspiration." Two weeks ago Stern was made pacemaker when Mozambique's Maria Mutola set a world 1,000m indoor best at Birmingham. Stern's running was spot on. Today she faces strong opposition from Patricia Djate. One race can make all the difference to a young athlete's career, and Scotland's Alison Curbishley is still reveling in the third place she gained behind her fellow Scot Melanie Neef and the Olympic champion Sally Gunnell in the AAA 400m flat in Birmingham. "I'm still up in the clouds and have been training off the back of that race," said Curbishley, who today will partner Gunnell. Curbishley, aged 19, has been considered as a potential successor to Gunnell in the 400m hurdles but she too has been plagued by injury over the past 18 months. Gunnell will see today's race as another building block towards defending her Olympic title. As for Curbishley, Atlanta is but a dream: "To get there would be unbelievable." Stern would echo that.



Murdoch takes Super beating, page 9

The bad times at Bolton, page 10

Atherton feels the heat, page 11

# Sports Guardian

## United strain Keegan nerves

Marlin Thorpe

**A**T LAST Alex Ferguson has got what he wanted: Newcastle under pressure. On Wednesday their Premiership lead was cut to six points, after their first league defeat of a year which began with the Manchester United manager eager to see how Kevin Keegan's side would stand up to a tight run-in.

"Newcastle are bound to come in for a testing time soon," he said in January. "It's hell when you lose the title late." That was part kidology but also an acknowledgment of the power of pressure. It caused United to throw away the title to Leeds four years ago and Blackburn so nearly to toss it to United last season. It is now Newcastle's turn to feel the strain.

Although Keegan's side have a game in hand, defeat at Manchester City today coupled with a United win at Bolton tomorrow would cut the lead to three points for United's visit to St James' Park on Monday week.

It is of course ironic that Manchester United are today looking to Ferguson for help. Ferguson trusting that City's instincts for Premiership survival will outweigh any reluctance to offer succour to Old Trafford.

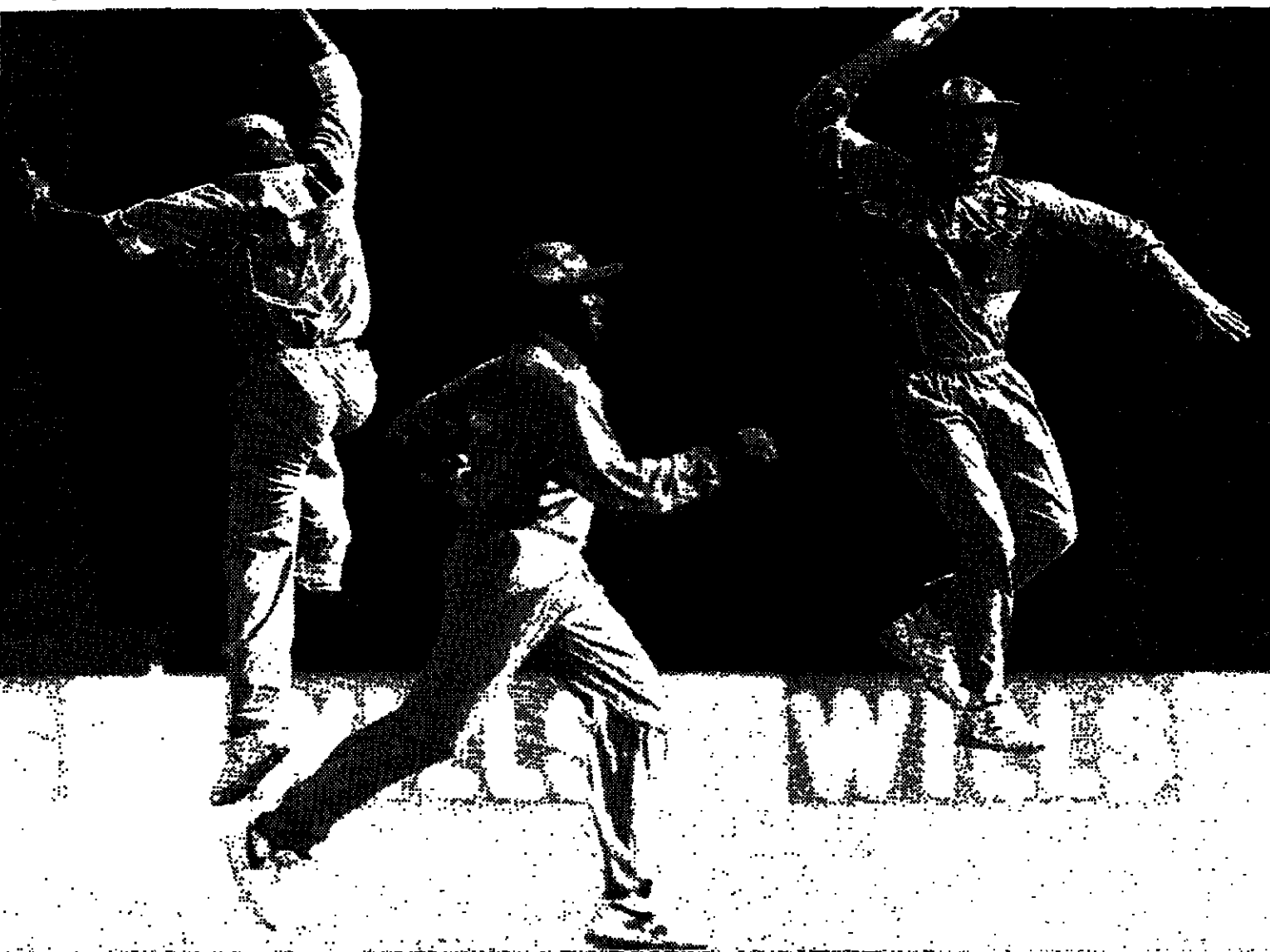
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More football, page 10

## WORLD CUP CRICKET



Early risers... Kenya players cavort with joy as the Australia captain and opener Mark Taylor is dismissed for six runs PHOTOGRAPH: SHALIN BOTTRELL

## McDermott hurt in Waugh game

Greg Baum in Visakhapatnam

**A**USTRALIA re-emerged yesterday on a Waugh footing, if not yet ready for an all-out war. After weeks in no-man's land, the World Cup favourites finally fired their opening shots against Kenya.

The extra rest granted to McDermott's strained calf by the decision not to play in Sri Lanka proved of little recuperative help and the muscle tore in only his third over as Kenya began their reply. Australia's leading wicket-taker in one-day internationals was forced to retire from the attack. He may well have bowled his last ball in the tournament.

McDermott appears most unlikely to be fit for Tuesday's crucial group match against India in Bombay. The Australia captain Mark Taylor said: "It's a recurrence of the same injury he thought he'd got rid of. A replacement is definitely an option." A decision on that score will be made today.

Australia were otherwise untroubled. The twin brothers Mark and Steve Waugh safeguarded their reputation with a partnership of 217, an Australia record in the World Cup. Mark's 130, gathered at a run a ball, was also the highest scored by an Australian in the competition, and Australia's 304 for seven was their highest total since the World Cup adopted the 50-over format.

Kenya were bold and brazen in reply but they could never hope to surmount such a score and ran out of overs at 207 for seven, beaten by 97 runs. For Australia it was a minor skirmish in distant parts; fiercer battles in grander theatres lie just ahead. But there were aspects to their play which might embolden future opponents to think that all their

GROUP A	P	W	L	T	N	PP	RR
Sri Lanka	2	2	0	0	0	1.63	
India	2	2	0	0	0	4.09	
Australia	2	1	1	0	0	2.184	
West Indies	2	0	2	0	0	2.22	
Kenya	2	0	2	0	0	-1.51	
Zimbabwe	2	0	2	0	0	-2.63	

facilities are not wholly in fighting trim.

Kenya won the early exchanges in both innings. In the morning they sent Australia in and claimed two cheap wickets with cut and swing before you could say Indira Priyadarshini Municipal Corporation Stadium, Visakhapatnam, and before the Waughes went on the warpath.

In the afternoon the Kenya captain Maurice Odumbe and wicketkeeper-opener Kennedy Oteino threatened briefly to emulate the Waughes with a robust partnership of 102 in 72 minutes. Kenya were ahead for 30 overs when comparing the running scores but ultimately they lacked the batting depth to sustain the effort.

A mid-morning breeze took the edge off an uncomfortably hot day, and the Waughes had the same effect on the game. Taylor and Ricky Ponting soon departed but the Waughes made their runs as their mother would once have expected them to make their beds: quickly, neatly and without fuss, although Mark added a couple of fancy tucks. He also hit a ruffie after passing 70 by offering three missed chances in two overs. They fell finally six balls apart, and three more wickets

followed in the last six overs as Australia, with victory assured, sought to turn it into an annihilation.

When Kenya replied, Steve Tikolo was cut down by Ponting's blinding catch at point. But Odumbe and Oteino, sensing Australian hesitation, hit hard and heartily at fast and slow bowlers alike in a vivacious display. Only Shane Warne was spared.

Scoreboard, page 11

## Blissett blurs the white line of racism



David Lacey

**T**HE conclusion, reached in a new BBC Radio series about racism in sport, that there is a colour bar which prevents black footballers becoming managers is depressing, though hardly surprising.

By now the number of black managers in the four English divisions should be reflecting the growth of black involvement in league football over the past 25 years. But beyond Viv Anderson, now Bryan Robson's assistant at Middlesbrough after a brief period as player-manager of Barnsley, the evidence of this happening is very slim.

The appointment of Luther Blissett as Watford's first-team coach, after the return of Graham Taylor to Vicarage Road as general manager, may be a step in the right direction but it is hardly a giant leap for mankind. According to the producer of Across The White Line, Blissett had applied for 22 posts without getting an interview.

At best the situation is dammingly disproportionate. If it is possible, in theory, to pick a strong all-black England team and still leave out Andy Cole and John Barnes it should not be unreasonable to ask why a footballer of Blissett's background has to wait for his mentor to return to get the chance to run a team.

This week one of the game's most intelligent voices wondered if Luther had taken one of the managerial courses open to players. That would have been a fair point if the English leagues had a proper system of instruction and qualification in football management.

As the recent example of Swansea City demonstrated, managers still tend to be appointed on an ad hoc basis and often at a chairman's whim. If budding managers needed diploma it would be harder for the Blissetts, once they had

qualified, to be ignored. The need to eradicate racism from football is supported by the game's authorities but internal problems, involving racial awareness and ethnic tensions, tend to be locked behind dressing-room and boardroom doors.

Old attitudes die hard. Traditionally English football has been played by the working class and run by the merchant class, neither noted for abundant liberalism where race is concerned. The general absence of black football managers may simply reflect the socio-economic attitudes governing the country as a whole.

Yet Brendan Batson, the Grenadan-born former Arsenal defender, has been assistant secretary of the PFA for 12 years and for a time Garth Crooks was its chairman. In addition black referees and linemen are on the list.

The ethnic mix in English football would be that much healthier for a stronger Asian involvement. But it has come a long way since The Encyclopedia of Association Football, published 40 years ago, included a brief section under Coloured Players which omitted Charlie Williams, the Doncaster Rovers centre-half who later became a professional comedian. At least Williams encapsulated the spirit of the football manager even if he did not become one.

**T**HE prevailing view among black footballers that a black manager of a major club will not be seen in their lifetimes will alter only when attitudes change at board level. Given that some clubs continue to bar women from directors' tea rooms, the process is likely to be slow.

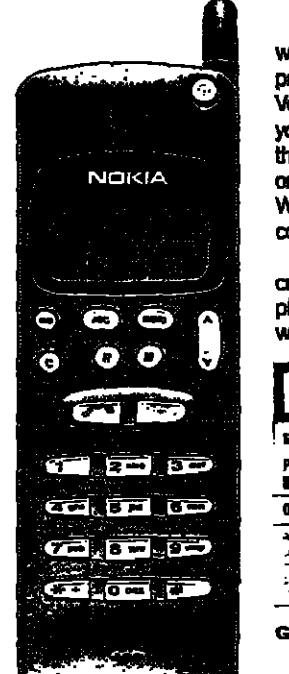
In 1991 the Crystal Palace chairman Ron Noades caused a rumpus with some insensitive generalisations on television about black players, for which he later apologized.

Noades was never a racist but until the game as a whole comes to terms with the profound changes which have been taking place in its make-up, former players like Blissett will continue to be denied the next logical step in their careers. Only when a black manager gets a vote of confidence from his chairman will true equality have been achieved.

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## Germany to pitch camp in Belfast

Michael Walker on Berti Vogts's plans to have a few days 'peace and quiet'

**T**HE Germans always get the first beach, pool or seat at the bar, they are always up at the crack of dawn securing their place.

So when it comes to preparing for Euro '96, it is no surprise that they have again sorted themselves out ahead of the rest.

A 30-acre site of council-owned playing fields in east Belfast may not seem like the obvious choice, but for 10 days in May Berti Vogts's players will train on public grounds on the industrial edge of the city. According to the Irish FA, he was simply looking for "somewhere different".

Vogts secured the not-much-sought-after deal after visiting the city early this year. Impressed by the pitches and the "peace and

quiet", he has arranged to take his squad to Belfast for their friendly against Northern Ireland on May 29 at Windsor Park.

Germany will then fly home for a further friendly with France before setting off for Manchester for their first Group D match against the Czech Republic on June 9.

Michael Novak, a German FA spokesman, explained how, in Vogts's eyes, the charms of Northern Ireland outweigh the comforts of home.

"In Germany during preparations in the past we have had 5,000 to 6,000 spectators every day," he said, "so it is a problem to prepare well for Euro '96. We are confident we will have 10 fine, quiet days in Belfast and that the population will give us a warm welcome."

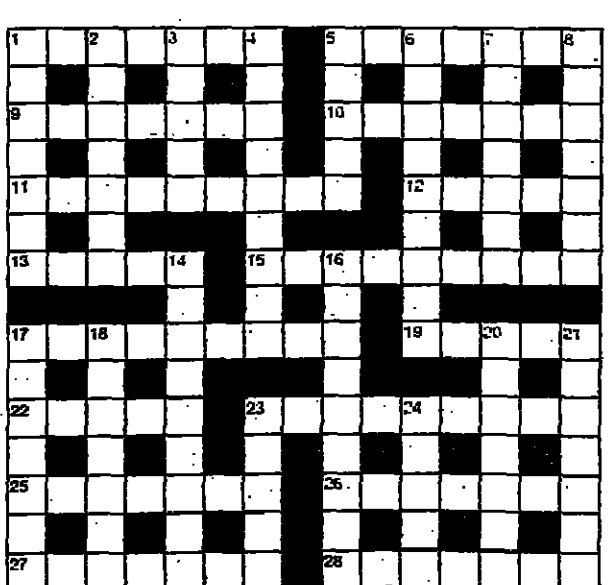
Vogts may also be right about not being pestered by German fans: a party of 63 have just cancelled their hotel booking for the Northern Ireland game because of unease over the political situation.

**In the past week, three Catholic priests have returned to their pulpits after having been involved in scandals.**

## Guardian COLLINS Crossword 20,584

A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,584, Reference Marketing, Harper Collins Publishing, 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, London, W6 8JB, by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday March 4.

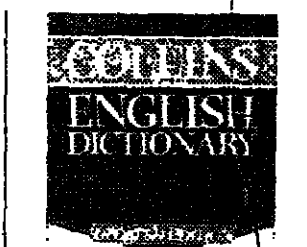
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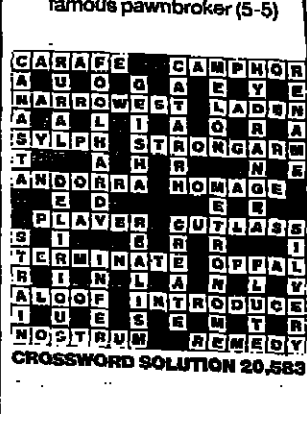
Set by Custos

- Across**
- 1 Figure from century past included in study (7)
  - 5 Young bird showing vitality, having ting (7)
  - 9,10 Excellent, the Police, being the star act (7,3,4)
  - 11 Obsolete smock used by those on night-work? (4,5)
  - 12 See passion flower abroad (5)
  - 13 Tennis star looks round the centre of Wimbledon (5)
  - 15 Agitated animal that's bursting into tent, losing head (9)
  - 17 Declared a month before getting honoured (9)

- 19 Dressed and acted at college (3,2)
  - 22 Sergeant-Major imbibing drink in place frequented by witches (5)
  - 23 Talkative, chat about our endless rule excitedly (9)
  - 25,26 Worthless woman needs some form of miracle, getting luggage back (7,7)
  - 27 Woman needing support, something difficult to achieve (7)
  - 28 You mustn't connect disciple, it's left (7)
- Down**
- 1 Plugs shares around Trinidad and Tobago (7)



- 2,3 London, say, earns profits from sale of assets (7,5)
- 4 Nigel, silly man, is inattentive (9)
- 5 Soaring bird, for instance, do you see it? (3,2)
- 6 Set called out, protected with armour (5,4)
- 7 Colour like a rainbow I'd flood in one upward slope (7)
- 8 Trudy retains one pound of libertas (7)
- 14 Odd matter involved in fiddled GCSE causes tussle (7)
- 16 Prepared to fight? Not as much as a postal ship (5,4)
- 17 I'd tripped up an antelope immobilise (7)
- 18 German city figure holding record (7)
- 20 Himalayan cedars from odd areas, intermingled (7)
- 21 Deliverer gets job on island (7)
- 23,24 Senior member of family famous pawnbroker (5,5)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,584

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Saturday February 24  
Sunday February 25  
1996  
Page 13

# The Guardian Outlook

Over 3 days The Guardian is running extracts from PETER MANDELSON and ROGER LITTLE's new book on the Blair Revolution

## Shock of the modern

### Blair's new Britain

**N**EW LABOUR is a new type of politics. It is about modernising Britain by building on its strengths. But modernisation is about far more than red roses, sound bites and packaging. It is about creating a new synthesis to which all of the centre and left can subscribe:

- Whereas the left desired equality of outcome and the right, individual freedom to do whatever they pleased, New Labour sets as its goal, real equal opportunity for all and special privileges for none.
- Whereas the left appeared to argue for rights without responsibilities and the right that one was responsible for oneself alone, New Labour stresses the importance of mutual obligations.
- Whereas the left favoured more public consumption and investment and the right more private consumption and investment, New Labour gives immediate priority to investment — both public and private.
- Whereas some on the left wanted top-down centralised rules, administered by powerful bureaucracies, and the right wanted to privatise everything public and leave the rest to the market, New Labour advocates diversity and decentralisation, with bottom-up solutions and public goals sometimes achieved by market means.
- Whereas the old left saw its job as representing trade unions, pressure groups and the working class, and the right saw its role as protecting the rich together with powerful corporate interests, New Labour stands for the ordinary families who work hard and play by the rules.

For New Labour, the long-term interests of the country must take pride of place over short-term political pressures. Putting the long-term first demands that political leaders must lead. They must be more honest with the voters and less petty partisan with their opponents. They must welcome more open government and a more deliberative legislative style that ensures that new laws are made to last. New Labour must aim to construct a broad coalition of centre and

left support for radical change with a clear consistency of direction.

New Labour's distinctive emphasis is on community. This is not a soft, romantic concept — old dears at bingo nights in draughty halls, or the world of the tightly-knit mining community that now is dying away. Community is a robust and powerful idea, and is at the heart of the stakeholder economy New Labour wishes to create. It means teamwork — working and acting together in companies, in local neighbourhoods, in the country as a whole to get things done. It means mutuality — rights and responsibilities going hand in hand. It means justice — that all interests are served, not just those of the rich and powerful.

This concept of community is more than an individual obligation to be kind, loving and charitable.

- First, everyone should have a stake in society and no one should be excluded from it. That is why the abolition of long-term unemployment is central to Labour policy.
- Secondly, individuals cannot reach their full potential alone, and nor will the "free" market ensure it either. They need the opportunities that come from being part of a strong community that acts together to back up their efforts — for example, by ensuring a high-quality education system and a health service.
- Thirdly, rights carry with them obligations. Yes, young people have rights to a much wider range of opportunity, but with the backing of the wider community goes an obligation to the wider community. Yes, companies should enjoy the freedom to compete in a dynamic market, but along with that freedom goes responsibility to all their stakeholders — workers, shareholders, bankers, long-term subcontractors and customers.

Voters want to know how much of a change New Labour represents from old Labour, and what that change means in practice. What has actually altered from the policy stances in the Bennite aberration of the late 1970s and the early 1980s? Or from the corporatist approach of the Wilson and Callaghan governments from 1974 to 1979? And from the governing philosophy of earlier Labour administrations?

New Labour firmly rejects the notion that centralised planning and state control are the route to economic success. In practice, every past Labour government has wanted to see a thriving private sector within a mixed economy. Nevertheless, there are clear differences between past Labour governments' view of the mixed economy and New Labour's com-



### The £5,000 public dowry that will give young couples a flying start

**N**EW LABOUR's distinctive emphasis is on its concept of community. Strong families are the foundation of a strong community. Family breakdown is a symptom as well as a cause of a wider breakdown in society. The left-of-centre cannot be passive about these trends. Strengthening the family has to be a number one social priority.

Unease about its fundamentalist associations has meant that in the past 30 years the left-of-centre has shunned the language of the family. New Labour, by contrast, recognises the importance of the family unit as a social institution for the proper bringing-up of children, where the difference between right and wrong is learned, and where a sense of mutual obligation is founded and practised. The stronger

the bonds that tie the extended family together, the more the family will be able to contribute to the larger responsibilities of care across the generations.

Committed relationships and marriage itself can and should be strengthened directly by public policy. One of the greatest sources of social unfairness is the difference between those couples setting off in life with a flying financial start from their parents and grandparents, and those who have no such backing. Access to a lump sum of, say, £5,000 would make an enormous difference at that stage of life.

One option that Labour might investigate would be the provision of medium-term, deferred repayment, interest-free loans to young couples without access to capital of their own — in effect a form of public dowry, available just

once in a lifetime. Eligibility for these soft loans would be assessed on a scale relating to the economic circumstances of the couples themselves, taking into account the net wealth of their parents.

This would be rough justice for young couples with well-off parents who refuse their assistance, but this would be no different to the similar situation which currently exists with student support. Marriage would be the simplest test of eligibility; it would be for consideration whether to extend the scheme to couples who affirm a long-term commitment to each other but who, for reasons of their own, reject the form of marriage.

Such an arrangement, which could be dubbed Getting Off to a Good Start, would be run by the building societies

Continued on page 15

ward investors have so much to teach Britain.

Ever since the publication of Anthony Crosland's *The Future Of Socialism*, in 1956, social democrats in his tradition have equated high levels of public spending with progress towards a more equal society. New Labour concurs with Crosland that stronger public services are essential for the good of the individual and society as a whole, but it would not agree that one can measure progress towards equality by the proportion of gross domestic product accounted for by public expenditure. An over-mighty and overly high-spending state is as much a barrier to Britain's success as a slimmed-down, minimalist state always deferring to crude market forces.

New Labour emphatically does not seek to provide centralised, "statist" solutions to every social and economic problem. Rather it aims to enable people to work together to achieve things for themselves and their fellow citizens. It is the job of the national government to set the right framework, not to run everything itself.

Old Labour often found itself divided on Europe. The left had an instinctive dislike of what

Voters want to know how much of a change New Labour represents from old Labour and what change means in practice

was felt to be a continental caricature of capitalist-oriented Christian democracy. The Treaty of Rome was argued to be incompatible with Labour's ambitions for more nationalisation and planning.

New Labour recognises the role of the nation state and its historic significance and responsibilities. But does not confuse symbols with reality. It knows that in the modern world it is only through Britain's committed participation in the European Union that we can regain true sovereignty — in other words, the political ability to tackle problems in the public interest — over issues which have slipped beyond the nation state's individual reach.

Opponents claim that the Blair revolution is "dumping socialism" or "leaving the old members behind" or just "fishing for votes". The truth is that the New Labour agenda stands in a long line of ethical socialist thinking. But we do not stop at that. We know that we live in the new global economy and that there is no alternative to that. We stand for a strong society and an efficient economy because we need both, and each needs the other. That is the essence of our belief in One Nation policies and the principle of the stakeholder economy.

The Blair Revolution — can New Labour deliver? by Peter Mandelson and Roger Little is published next week by Faber, price £7.99

Peter Mandelson is Labour MP for Hartlepool and Chairman of Labour's general election planning. Roger Little is managing director of Prima Europe, public policy consultants

**TOMORROW: The Observer interviews Mandelson  
MONDAY: How will Labour govern?**

## Wayne Koestenbaum wants you to look again at the London Review of Books

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# The new lottery bonanza

THE Government is about to embark on a programme of Keynesian public works to stimulate the economy and, as a possible byproduct, to improve the feelgood factor in the run-up to the election. It is never presented like this, of course, but that is essentially what is happening with the proceeds of the lottery, the economic effects of which have received surprisingly little scrutiny. Some of the grandest projects were announced this week including: confirmation that London will host the £700 million millennium celebrations at Greenwich; that Salford will get a £127 million cultural centre dedicated to L S Lowry and that Cardiff Arms Park will be developed into a stadium for the next century. This has made up for the disappointment in Wales when proposals for a new opera house in Cardiff were turned down.

So far the effect of the lottery on the economy has been negative. Tens of millions of punters buy tickets every week rather than spend money on something else, thereby lowering retail sales. But soon that money will be converted from

consumption into capital expenditure. It will start to be spent on the biggest rolling programme of projects ever known in this country.

At present only £60 million out of £1.1 billion allocated for expenditure is actually being spent, but this will now start to change quite rapidly. It is reckoned that at least £9 billion will be made available over the next seven years. This understates what will actually happen because it is a condition of many of the projects that partnership funds are raised from other sources. It is reckoned that for every £1 raised about £1.60 is found from other sources. In the case of the Greenwich Millennium Exhibition the leverage is even greater. The lottery is giving £200 million, leaving the remaining £500 million to be raised from industry and other sources in the form of equity and sponsorship deals.

The economic effect doesn't end there because the Millennium Exhibition is bound to attract to this country and to London tourists who would otherwise not have come. They in turn will spend money on other things such as hotel rooms, food, souvenirs and transport, thereby having a multiplying effect on the rest of the economy. Many of them will also travel to other parts of the country, quite possibly taking in the Lowry gallery and other lottery projects as well. Some bright spark will doubtless dream up a scheme to take visitors from abroad on a dedicated package tour of all the large lottery sites (suitably funded by a lottery grant).

The biggest threat to the lottery's success is that the requirement to fund

partnership funds may rebound on itself. As Sadler's Wells in London knows to its cost, corporate munificence is finite. The historic Islington theatre won a £30 million lottery grant but so far has raised only £2 million out of £9.5 million of private funding needed. Faced with competition from Covent Garden and the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside, the theatre is experiencing the reality of donor fatigue.

Since the distribution of lottery money could in theory carry on year in, year out for decades to come, it will have a truly dramatic effect on Britain's cultural and social infrastructure. It will quite possibly be the single biggest thing by which posterity will remember John Major's administration. Mrs Thatcher wouldn't give the proposal house room on the grounds that not only was it gambling, but state-sponsored too.

Equally interesting is whether lottery projects will help to keep Mr Major's hopes of staying in power alive. If the Government manages to avoid defeat in the House of Commons and struggles on until the spring of next year then the explosion of lottery projects of all sizes up and down the country — from the new village hall to the Millennium Exhibition — will help to contribute to the "feelgood factor", along with an expected rise in real incomes and a string of wind-fall capital gains from building society mergers and electricity rebates. This doesn't guarantee that the Government's popularity will rise, but it does give ministers something to cling on to. These days politics, like life, is increasingly becoming a bit of a lottery.

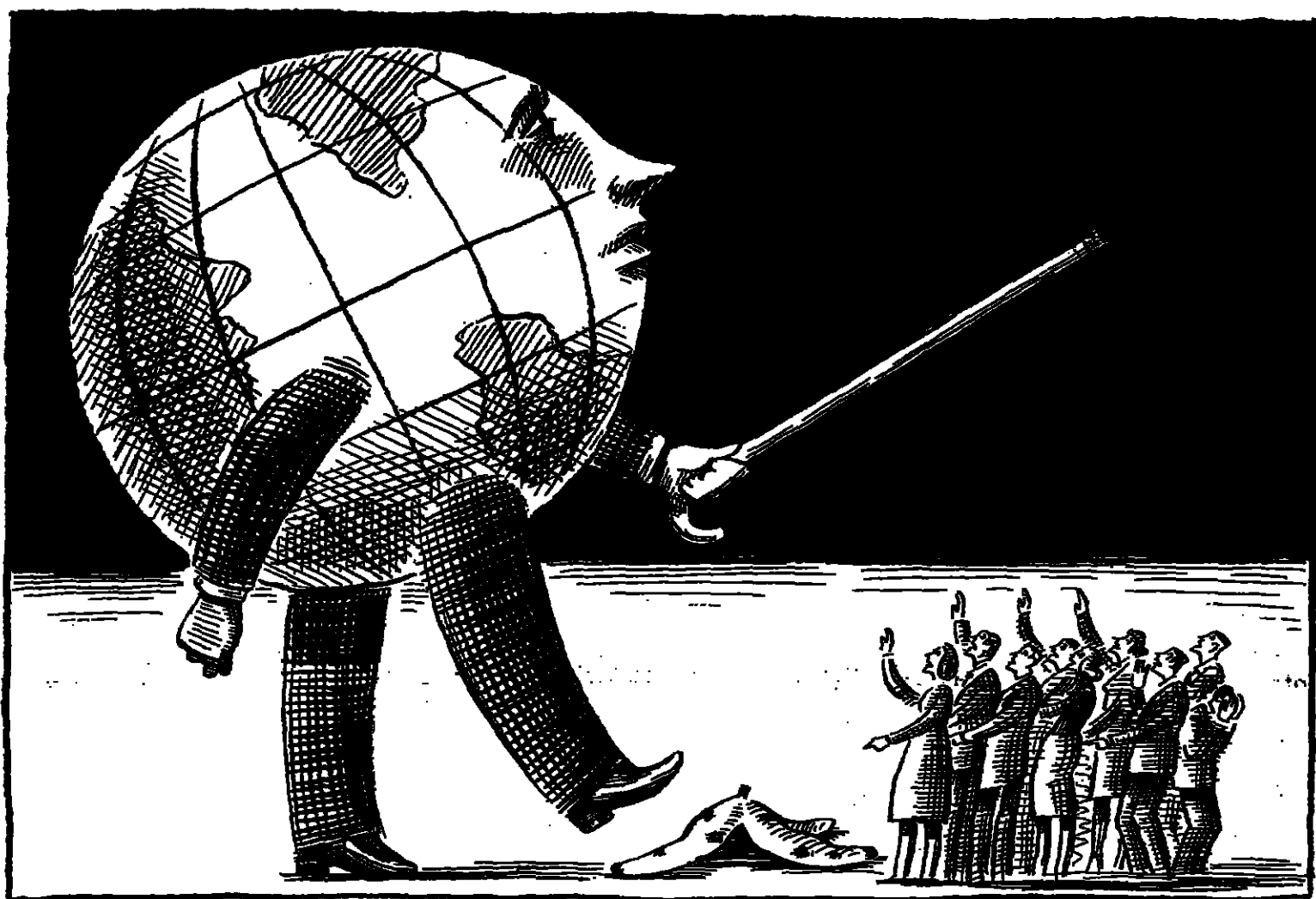
# Going vertical in Bosnia

CARL BILDT, the international mediator for Bosnia, has given a gloomy picture of the prospects of a real return to communal peace. Viewing the Sarajevo suburb of Vogosca, where fleeing Serbs have trashed their houses and public utilities behind them, he warned that ethnic separatism now "could have repercussions for the whole of Bosnia in the future". The precedent now being created in Vogosca, the first of five suburbs being transferred from the Bosnian Serb republic to the Muslim-Croat federation under the terms of the Dayton agreement, is deeply depressing. Most of the Serb community has fled in fear of reprisals. Members of the International Police Task Force (IPTF) have been too thin on the ground and their role is limited to unarmed supervision. Mr Bildt's forecast is unlikely to be wrong but no one should be surprised by it, either.

Pictures on television of helpless IPTF monitors, besieged by angry local Serbs, may convey the impression that the civilian side of the international (no longer strictly speaking UN) effort in Bosnia has failed again. But the logic of ethnic separation was built in from the start to the Dayton Agreement, which creates two separate states while pretending that they are still one nation. Dayton has merely confirmed — with some modifications on the map — a division built on ethnic lines which the in-

ternational powers had been pressing on Bosnia for several years. Making progress in Bosnia is bound to be hard, whether on the civilian or military level. Last weekend's Rome summit was designed to bang heads together with the full implied weight of US diplomacy and Nato commitment behind it. Yet the Bosnian Serb boycott of military contacts with Nato officials continued much to the embarrassment of the Nato ground forces commander. It is also clear that General Ratko Mladic remains defiantly in charge of military operations. On the Sarajevo government side, nothing has been done to create confidence among the Serbs of safety in the transferred suburbs. Yesterday federation police were already breaking rules agreed with IPTF by setting up checkpoints to the alarm of the local Serbs.

All of this only underlines the obvious: rebuilding Bosnia is not just an uphill struggle but an almost vertical climb and it will take twice as long as the most pessimistic prediction. Yesterday John Major voiced doubts as to whether the peacekeepers in Bosnia could achieve their task by the end of the year when, he said, it was "generally expected" that the force would leave. That expectation, imposed on the whole peace effort by domestic US considerations, has been problematic from the start. Mr Major went further by declaring that he did not think the US troops could or should leave unilaterally. This more realistic approach should be encouraged on all fronts: the commitment to Bosnia, whether military, political or economic, is long-term or it is not worth making.



# Pride goes before a fall

Accidents such as the Sea Empress are an inevitable part of modern life. But, says MARTIN WOOLLACOTT, they leave deeper psychological scars that we might imagine. Illustration: PETER TILL

ACCIDENTS have become one of the main ways the modern world measures civilisation. As the Sea Empress crashed on and off Welsh rocks this week, we were all engaged in a familiar calculation. Underneath anger and regret about any particular accident is the bigger question of who is safe and who is not.

Societies like our own regress to a time when risk was constant and loss of life and property a regular occurrence. Their regular reversion to the level of poorer societies who experience just that today. The famous journalistic rule of thumb — two dead

in Putney is worth as much space as 200 dead in the Philippines — is not an index of racism or proximity. It recognises the difference between societies dominated by wants and those dominated by worry, between societies who cannot pay enough for safety and those who can. The biggest worry of all, for those in the second category, is that they are slipping back into the first.

The flurry of blame that surrounds every accident in the West can sometimes seem mindless. It is also true that some safety standards in the advanced world have been improving. The number of oil spills, for instance, has been

falling for 20 years and even though it is still lower than before, it is still higher than before. But what has happened is that our view of accidents, all the way from the single child killed on the road to the hundreds of thousands damaged by Chernobyl, has changed. Safety stands higher with us than it did, and the balance between benefits and dangers is perceived in a different way. The German sociologist Ulrich Beck has charted this shift to what he calls the "risk society". We are beginning to care more about safety than about material goods or their distribution.

Accident strikes at our past, our present and our future. Accidents that involve loss of life strike at the present. Those that destroy valued objects — a castle in Windsor, an opera house in Venice, a famous old wooden bridge in Switzerland — strike at our links with the past. Those that damage the environment, like the wreck of the Sea Empress, strike at the future.

The world economy's most distinctive characteristic is the ever increasing rate at which goods, people, and information are shifted round the world. The message that travel is safe is constantly repeated. The idea of safe movement reached its apogee in Star Trek, where a group of men and women in romper suits appeared to be careening around the universe in a large and comfortably furnished living room. Enterprise has very nice fitted carpets and never has an accident, except when aliens interfere.

The truth we recognise in more realistic moments is that there is a trade-off between the cheapness of mass mobility and its safety. All forms of transport are in financial crisis. Car manufacturers struggle for new markets in the East. Airlines teeter on the edge. Aerospace firms fight for their lives. Shipbuilding firms are threatened species. Railways clutch at viability, in or out of state hands. We are in the strange position that one of the most dangerous processes in which we engage,

the volume movement of people and things, is financially a close-run thing, where costs are constantly being shaved and safety considerations put under pressure. It is said that officials of Lee Kuan Yew set up one of his tours of Africa some years ago not according to the shortest distances but on the basis of the safety records of the African airlines involved. In an age of mass tourism, we all know the feeling.

We may worry about coach crashes in Europe, what will happen to safety standards on the railway in Britain after privatisation, or why, in the United States, equipment failures caused air traffic control breakdowns at least 11 times in 1994-95. But the accident rates in developing countries are horrendous and are getting worse as their economies grow and enter into deeper relationships with the West. Death tolls in the hundreds — 300 killed in an Indian rail crash last summer, 400 in a Philippines ferry wreck — are routine.

Cars don't kill that many people in Europe and America because they have been separated from people and to some extent from each other. As car manufacturers move into Asian markets, where they expect to find most of the profit, they will keep them going in the next 20 years, accident rates are approaching mass-scale levels. In Vietnam, for instance, with 300,000 cars on the roads, there are 5,000 road deaths a year — peasants mown down by trucks or tipped by the bush into rivers and ravines.

If we export technology without its safety infrastructure, the developing world exports its standards to us, in the form, for instance, of some of the ships and crews who carry goods to our shores. More generally, our demand quickens their economies, increasing the rate of accident there, while their low costs put pressure on our costs at home, increasing the rates of accident here.

Corruption thrives on the feeble attempts at regulation. In China there were arrests after 325 people died in a cinema fire. In Seoul, city officials were detained on charges they took bribes to overlook safety violations after a department store collapsed in June last year, killing 458 people and injuring 900. But treating accidents as crimes, while ignoring the conditions that produce them, is not effective policy.

THERE has been a moral class society, Beck argues, where the principal preoccupation is equality, to the risk society, whose "basis and motive force is safety". But he adds that old judgments of utility, profit and advantage persist, and it remains unclear whether what he calls the "solidarity of anxiety" will prevail over individual calculations. It is this unknown, whether we will shape our societies so that we can all profit and advance together, or whether they will be split into groups competitively seeking safety on their own terms, that looms behind every major accident.

The impact of those accidents, as that will keep on livelihoods or damage what is left of the natural world, is more than the sum of individual grief. In the faces of survivors and the bereaved, from Bhopal to Birmahmer, can be seen a shock at being thrust out of the circle of safety, a shock from which many never recover. When an explosion destroys a building and a bomb is suspected it is sometimes announced that, after all, it was "only" an accident. In fact the accident is more truly shocking, since a bomb is destruction by intent while an accident represents a greater loss of human control and a more fundamental lack of foresight.

# On guard, M Chirac

## Rattling the bars



Ian Aitken

IT ISN'T often that this column has advice for a president of the French Republic, but Jacques Chirac's announcement that he is abolishing compulsory military service — something which has survived in France since revolutionary times — moves me to do so. I think he should be careful. China's plan — unexpectedly flattering to us Brits — is that France needs an entirely professional army just like ours. But this idea suffers from one very serious defect: unlike our soldiers, the French military isn't accustomed to staying out of politics.

French democrats shouldn't forget that the Fourth Republic was destroyed and General de Gaulle brought to power by politically-minded soldiers. And in case some Gaullist enthusiasts see that as a recommendation for military intervention, the general also came close to being deposed by the same politically-minded soldiers only a few years later.

In effect, he was put into the Elysee by generals and colonels who expected him to carry on with the murderous war to keep Algeria French. When they discovered that he had double-crossed them, and intended to give the Algerians their independence, they attempted a second coup. I was in Algiers at the time, and I saw what happened. These "professional" officers, most of whom were in on the plot, ordered their soldiers to seize strategic points. The soldiers, most of whom were conscripts, didn't just refuse — in many cases they arrested their mutinous officers.

This was the main reason why the attempted coup failed. In effect, the Fifth Republic and French democracy was saved by the teenagers of "le contingent", as the call-up boys are called in France. The professional army was on the other side — and especially

that most "professional" of all France's military units, the foreign legion. Let's hope that Jacques Chirac has some other source of reliable support, should he ever run into trouble with his professional army. He may need it one day, just as Le Grand Charles did.

THERE aren't many plus points in the horrible environmental disaster unfolding in the waters outside Milford Haven. Perhaps the only one is that it finally puts the skids under the Tory Party's defence of the House of Lords, and in particular its attachment to hereditary peers.

The performance of the very junior transport minister sent down to oversee the salvage operation has, in most people's perception, been lamentable. Worse, he has even attempted silly victimizations at press conferences, while the nation's TV screens were recording the dreadful truth.

But this Bertie Wooster character exactly fits the kind of person who is presented as the main justification for the parliamentary survival of hereditary peers. Like they say, he got into the corridors of power much earlier than elected politicians, let alone life peers. And we are expected to be pleased about this.

For the Viscount Goschen, parliamentary secretary at the Department of Transport, was born in 1968. He was poached into parliament by the early death of his father. Because he is young and thrusting (unlike his superannuated colleagues) he seemed suitable for ministerial office. And he has made a complete cock of it. So much for the hereditary principle.

NOT even Ann Widdecombe, a woman who makes Michael Howard look weak, has attempted to defend the release of fraudster Peter Clowes after only four years of a 10-year sentence. Looking like the Black Avenger, she went on to tell to bewail the event on behalf of the Home Office.

So why did it happen? Alas, she explained, it was the fault of the law as it currently stood. Which sounds fine — until one remembered that her lot have been making the laws for 17 years.

MY favourite boozier, the Duke of Windsor in Highgate, often gets letters from "The Prince of Wales, Highgrove, England". Now he look forward to getting Charles's e-mail too. It's become the first pub in England to go on the Internet.

I HAD somehow escaped my notice until yesterday, when Gwenneth Bransby-Zachary of GBZ Management, who's his agent, revealed it in the Times, that the Royal Academy of Music has on its payroll a Professor of Accordion Studies. Is there any field of human endeavour, I wonder, which no longer has a professor? Such titles have such a haunting music about them that I think I might start a collection.

# Smallweed



WITH that thoughtless arrogance which the rest of Britain has learned to expect from the capital, the art critic of the London Evening Standard, Brian Sewell, condemns the award of

£64 million of lottery loot to create a cultural complex in honouring L S Lowry. Lowry representing Manchester, this posturing points, is "plain, barking lunacy". When will southerners learn that Salford, though part of Greater Manchester, is not part of Manchester but a separate city with its own treasured history? Were Sewell now to show his face in that city, which if he has any sense he will not, he would promptly be set upon by Salfordians, who would tell him that Salford is older than Manchester, having got its charter earlier, opened the first free public library and created the first smokeless zone, that it's the birthplace of, among others, the physicist Joule, the actor Albert Finney and the (Manchester) footballer Ryan Giggs, and the terminus of the Manchester Ship Canal (which never sets foot in Manches-

ter); that it boasts its own cathedral and university, has established in Salford Quays a model of waterside redevelopment which others have cribbed, and is host to the only Rugby League team to have beaten Wigan in cup competition in eight years. Then I guess, to the cheers of the 228,000 population, they would boot the protesting aesthete into the Ship Canal.

SMALLWEED'S nomination of Sir Richard Scott as Britain's first president, is hereby withdrawn. Not because he failed to hand out findings in committees. What he did was to say to Parliament: you are grown-up people; you are there to police the Executive; this is what the Executive has been up to; if you don't like what I've revealed, action is up to you. Accordingly MPs have the chance on Monday and

afterwards to vote on the issues of Parliamentary supremacy which so many are always on about. Very few will, but that's their fault, not Scott's.

No, his fault is his double negatives. Since the President will be above politics, there may not be much he can meaningfully say. But we can't afford to begin our lives as Republicans with a head of state who on great occasions is likely to say: "We in Britain do not wish not to build a better, more prosperous society". Or: "If this country fails to fail to stand up for anything, it does not fail to fail to stand up for an absence of indecency, and a sense of not uncommon avoidance of purposelessness." I have toyed with transferring support to Dr David Butler, who has just demonstrated how resignation on a point of principle can change things for the better.

Though some reports yesterday failed to credit him, the decision of the United Oxford and Cambridge University Club to abandon its sexist practices is Dr Butler's achievement. He deserves a life peerage at least.

WITH mounting excitement, Smallweed read this week that the manager of Liverpool, United, Howard Wilkinson, was greatly displeased with his talented (but lately less fecund) Ghanaian striker, Tony Yeboah, because of the player's allegedly late return from the African championships. As pointed out in this column when Yeboah was signed, should the footballer focus his manager's wrath it was possible that Wilkinson might address him as follows: "Hal Obey, Yeboah"; thus coupling one of the ripest palindromes in British sporting history. Confirmation from

Elland Road that this expression has been used will be richly rewarded by Smallweed: with a ticket to Wednesday's game between Cowdenbeath and Livingston, perhaps.

AS Iogle the coverage of Princess Diana's visit in Rajasthan, I catch myself musing that if all a further campaigning play in what I am coming to see as the Monarchical Party primaries, in which Diana is Pat Buchanan and poor old Prince Charles looks more and more like Bob Dole. Is this because Smallweed has read too many reports from News Channel? Or is I a foul old cynic? Or is I a realist?

THE TORY MP David Lighthorn died after the university rugby match, which is always played in the first week of December. Under a gentle-

man's agreement, reached when Francis Fynn was Chief Whip, the main parties undertake to fill parliamentary vacancies within three months of the death of a sitting member. According to Smallweed's famously fallible arithmetic, three months from the first week of December is the first week of March, so the writ should have been moved at the very latest by the day before yesterday. What does this tell us, I wonder, about the maintenance of gentlemanly standards in our governing party?

A SCHOLARLY letter from Southampton points out that the Beachcomber column in the Daily Express was called "By The Way" and not Beachcomber, and adds that before J B Morton made it his own, it was written by D B Wyndham Lewis. It also asks whether the Pedant

who sometimes invades these proceedings is the progeny of the Prodnose, who persecuted Beachcomber in much the same way. As an old Beachcomber addic, Smallweed is not unaware that this may be not be entirely impossible. A pedant writes: You're as bad as Sir Richard Scott. Smallweed wearily replies: You're as bad as Prodnose.

I HAD somehow escaped my notice until yesterday, when Gwenneth Bransby-Zachary of GBZ Management, who's his agent, revealed it in the Times, that the Royal Academy of Music has on its payroll a Professor of Accordion Studies. Is there any field of human endeavour, I wonder, which no longer has a professor? Such titles have such a haunting music about them that I think I might start a collection.

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Tending the faithful... Monsignor Michael Buckley, questioned about sex allegations by the police and later released, is a flamboyant man with a reputation for faith healing and homespun philosophy

# Confessions of a priest

Two priests have recently been cleared in sex scandals. MADELEINE BUNTING reports on how those involved have fought back and how, in this country at least, the Catholic Church is responding when allegations are made

IN THE past week, three Catholic priests have returned to their pulpits after having been named in scandals. But once allegations of impropriety have besmirched a priest's reputation, can he ever recover? This is the question being pondered this weekend by two English priests, Fr Michael Hollings and Monsignor Michael Buckley, and an Irish bishop, the Rt Rev Brendan Comiskey.

Cardinal Basil Hume told parishioners at mass at St Mary of the Angels church in Bayswater last Sunday that the 74-year-old Fr Hollings was to be reinstated after a period of administrative leave. "The police have decided that they have no basis for any action to be taken," said Cardinal Hume, adding "I would like to pay tribute to Fr Michael for the outstanding work he has done over the years."



Ireland's Bishop Brendan Comiskey (left) may follow Eamonn Casey (right) - now in Ecuador - into exile

"Please forgive me for what I did. Accept I wanted to help, not harm you." One of his staunchest allies was his cousin and old friend, the Duke of Norfolk, and Fr Hollings has spent some of the last few months at the duke's home, Arundel Castle. But the experience has reportedly left him "shattered". There are rumours of parishioners demanding an inquiry, angry at how this elderly man, only a few months before he is due to retire, was forced through such a humiliating experience.

avoid such catastrophes here, the Church set in place stringent guidelines in 1994; allegations must be reported to the police immediately without informing the priest involved; the Church cannot undertake any investigations; as soon as allegations have been made, the priest must be removed from the parish and placed on administrative leave.

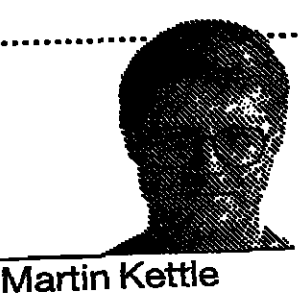


Such provisions have left priests feeling exposed and unsupported by the Church, and it is this feeling which Mgr Buckley is planning to tap. It emerged at the National Conference of Priests last September, when a motion was proposed asking that "adequate safeguards be given to protect priests from the consequences of false accusations" was only narrowly defeated.

From my limited knowledge, I would hazard the guess that there are many, many men and women who are most deeply devoted to the young and who never fall from high standards of morality in their regard but are nevertheless, consciously or subconsciously, motivated by sex, at least in part. Now this is good, not bad; it is part of human motivation. It is not to be stigmatised, but to be controlled for the welfare of the other, and younger, person.

The tax and spend implications of any other strategy would be quite unworkable. The thrust of policy should be to strengthen the family's capacity to cope, while recognising that government should play a vital role in underpinning family responsibilities involved. But this argument falls down on several counts. For one thing, informal care by one member of a family for another is already the mainstay of social support in this country.

## A massive failure to Press the point



Martin Kettle

IF THERE were any justice in the world, the Government would be defeated on Monday. And if they did not resign there and then, there would be a confidence motion on Tuesday, and they would lose that too. And on Wednesday, John Major would tell the Cabinet that he was asking for a dissolution.

Peter Thurnham in not supporting the Government as well as even though such a revolt may end in the Tory party's electoral defeat? In other words, don't hold your breath. But whose fault will it be if the Conservatives survive? There will be many suspects. Some will pin the offence on the wicked government machine, which used its eight days advance notice of the report to concoct a version which it has sold with ruthless and powerful effect ever since.

There is an element of blaming the messenger for bringing bad news here. And if the press built Scott up in advance, and was fixated on the Government's media spinning operation, or failed to read the report properly, then surely these same charges can all be proved against Opposition MPs too? That is true too. You could even add that for Labour to go round complaining that the story has been allowed to go off the ball is an admission that it has. But even so, the charges cannot be so easily dismissed.

Labour circles. The case against the media is as follows. First, that it built up excessive expectations about what Scott would say and the damage it would do, so that the report was an anti-climax. Second, that it fell for the Government's lies on the day it was published. Third, that it then spent more time reporting the Government's media spin than it did in actually reading the report. Fourth, that even after the report was published, it accepted the Government's claims that the story has peaked. Fifth, that it therefore lost interest in Scott himself and even today is only interested in the result of Monday's vote. Finally, and embracing all the foregoing, that it hasn't bothered to read the report.

There is a duty to ensure that lies are exposed. Yet, with a few distinguished exceptions, most of us have not made as much effort as we should have over Scott. Collectively we stand accused of laziness, treating it as a one-day wonder and not burrowing more assiduously into the mass of lies documented in the report.

press has a duty to ensure that lies are exposed. Yet, with a few distinguished exceptions, most of us have not made as much effort as we should have over Scott. Collectively we stand accused of laziness, treating it as a one-day wonder and not burrowing more assiduously into the mass of lies documented in the report.

expecting anyone to make sense of it all. Even so, and with all that said, I think the press — and the broadcasting media in particular — have let the story go quite quickly and too lightly, principally because it is too much trouble to follow it through. In a world of diminishing literacy, in which people apparently do not read anything any longer, it is perhaps unreasonable to expect journalists any more than anyone else to read Scott's hundreds of densely argued pages. But the media's relative neglect of Scott's text and revelations are striking, nevertheless, especially given the claims we make and the public position we crave.

many newspapers — though not this one — reduced Scott to the odd down-page story about whether this or that MP is wavering? Is it because all the questions arising from the report have been asked? Of course not. Why has Labour had to do so much of the digging that the press should have been doing itself? Why have government departments been given an easy time? Where is Alan Clark and why hasn't he been carved into pieces about the report?

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## Public dowry for young

Continued from page 13 and mortgage lenders, who have extensive experience of assessing a couple's financial position as part of the process of awarding a mortgage, there would be some net cost as a result of deferred loan repayments. This would need to be met by the government, which would make non-interest-bearing deposits with mortgage lenders in order to match the liabilities attached to the loans.

Some left-wing critics would argue that emphasis on the social role of the extended family is a cop-out. The state in one form or another shares the family responsibilities involved. But this argument falls down on several counts. For one thing, informal care by one member of a family for another is already the mainstay of social support in this country. The main issue in social policy is how to help people to help each other — and give them practical support in this role. This is what people want. The role of the state is as provider of last resort.



# Ship of oil and fools

THREE years ago, the junior pupils of my school wrote to Lord Calthness, then the Minister for Shipping, to voice their concern at the environmental disaster caused by the oil tanker *Esmer*. Watching the tankers passing the window of our classroom, they had become aware that this was a problem they could face one day. They received a reply which assured an inquiry and every possible measure to make our waterways safe.

Last autumn, they watched the *Esmer* stranded on the cliffs at Mill Bay, feeling safe that the double hull had worked. Last Friday morning, the feeling of safety and security was shattered: these tankers, it transpired, are not all double-hulled. There are not so many tugs available now as there used to be.

I wonder if Lord Goschen could help me plan my assembly for Monday. What will I say? We have spent the last week watching our environment and economy being destroyed. It has been like slow torture, the false confidence of those in charge, the feelings that the action taken was again for monetary ends, not for concern for the environment.

It will not be enough to tell the children that everyone on the ship worked hard to save it, nor that the salvage team were working against difficult weather. They will see the dead and dying birds; they will miss the crab in the rockpools next summer; they will play on the oil-soaked beaches.

After this week, there are few people in this area who will trust the Government to make decisions which will protect us and our environment, as far as possible, against pollutants. Lord Goschen can be assured of one thing. He will be receiving a set of letters from the pupils of Dale School next week. We will not give up on our world.

**Val Secur-lock**, Headteacher, Dale County Primary School, Dale, Havfordwest, Pembrokehire SA62 3QZ.

**KILLING** birds and fish is an environmental disaster, then nature is the biggest culprit. The horrified reactions to the latest spillage only highlight the morbid culture of our times: an atmosphere in which every problem seems to be inflated into a disaster, and the blame is always laid at the door of human intervention in nature. Meanwhile, a real scandal — that lives are daily put at risk by sub-standard ships and inadequately-funded salvage operations — passes almost without comment.

**John Gillott**, Hillfield Avenue, London N8 7DU.

**ACCORDING** to reports from Millford Haven, the coastguards in the nearby days of the disaster could not communicate with the powerful Chinese tug *Sun* crew on the *Esmer*. This experience is unfortunately still common through-

out Britain. Some hospitals, local authorities and police forces still have to fall back on a cook, a porter or anyone they can find in an emergency. More and more public agencies are now following the example of the increasing number of those who have used Language Line and its telephone interpreters in 140 languages, who are at the service of subscribers within a minute or so of being called.

If the coastguards had used Language Line they could have been in immediate communication and the *Esmer* incident could have been a little less disastrous. Lord Young of Dartington, Chairman, Language Line, 18 Victoria Park Square, London E2 9PF.

**WHY** is it that every time we suffer a major oil spill in nearshore waters, a distracting debate ensues about the inadequacy of safety measures to deal with such disasters? In the light of your article (Extent of oil pollution makes spill drop in the ocean, February 22), suggesting that such catastrophes only account for 2 per cent of hydrocarbons entering the global environment, surely the overriding issue is our over-dependence on oil and the urgent need to invest heavily in energy conservation, whilst finding alternative and more benign energy sources.

**Jim Fielder**, Waste Watch, Gresham House, 24 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1 2BN.

**WHY** is it that we as a maritime nation always have to rely on foreign tugs to remove wrecks from our shores? Surely the Admiralty, which has warships, minesweepers and fishery protection vessels should also possess tugs to protect our shores. If British shipowners opt out of that responsibility, Frank Hughes, 57 Repton Drive, Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Crewe CW1 1SA.

**NONE** of the most recent spills in Ogoni, Nigeria, oil leaked from a Shell flowline for 40 days between July and August 1993 without repair, further contaminating Ogoni farmland. Shell argues that its engineers were unable to get into the area to repair the pipeline for fear of violence, but this has been vehemently denied by the Ogoni.

According to an independent record of Shell's spills from 1982 to 1992, 1,626,000 gallons were spilled from the company's Nigerian operations in 27 separate incidents. Of the total number of spills recorded from Shell — a company which operates in more than 100 countries — 40 per cent were in Nigeria. And you think we have a problem. Watched the tanker *Esmer*. Handel House, 18 St Chad's Road, Derby DE23 6RS.

## Perverting the truth of abuse

**GERALD HANNON** (Professor or pervert, G2, February 21) implies a link between gay sex and paedophilia. There is no more of a link than between heterosexual sex and molesting girls. Paedophiles frequently excuse their behaviour by quoting this spurious "connection".

In five years of work with sex offenders we have met some of the minority of abused boys who subsequently abuse. We also meet survivors' groups. We meet hundreds of men who as boys "suffered in silence" and may have appeared not to mind. In fact they have carried rage, shame, insecurity and guilt for many years.

Hannon's quotations about New Guinea and Ancient Greece are irrelevant. Behaviour needs to be viewed in the context of here and now. Men abuse power to manipulate boys and girls into apparent co-operation, which increases the children's feelings of guilt about the behaviour. Abusers

frequently assert that the victim "asked for it." Victim statements usually show the offender as bribing and threatening. In the quoted case, the lad "Simon" had previously been abused by a policeman. Sexualised behaviour is often a symptom of abuse and "Simon" was able to exploit that, rather than protect and support the boy.

Children might want to play with matches, drive cars or drink alcohol. Adults don't get alongside and do it with them. They guide them about age appropriate behaviour.

With sexual behaviour the emotional development of the child is critical as well as basic knowledge and safety concerns. Working to persuade child-abusers to stop is hard enough without phoney academic arguments making it harder.

Roger Kennington, Sex Offender Team, Northumbria Probation Service, Weylsey Court, Blaydon, Tyne and Wear NE21 5BT.



## Tory stories and survival

**ANOTHER** letter to your which has warships, minesweepers and fishery protection vessels should also possess tugs to protect our shores. If British shipowners opt out of that responsibility, Frank Hughes, 57 Repton Drive, Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Crewe CW1 1SA.

**NOTE** Peter Bottomley taking the Diary to task in the defence of accuracy in reporting facts. This must have made for some interesting debates over breakfast if he ever discussed his wife's role at the Department of Health. Brian Bethell, 3 Cherry Drive, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8HF.

**WITHOUT** wishing to prolong this correspondence, I have to say that Julia Harrley-Brewer (Letters, February 23) has shown herself to be as unrelatable in her dealings with me as Matthew Norman has shown himself to be malicious. They deserve each other. Even if her quotation of me were accurate, which I dispute, she was admitting to having leaked the contents of a conversation with one of her own sources to a journalist whom she knew to be hostile to him. Dr Julian Lewis, Conservative Research Department, 32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EH.

**REGARDING** your correspondence over Cezanne's supposed ethnic background. In fact, the French word *Creole* means a person of white race born in colonies, such as Les Antilles, La Reunion, La Guadeloupe, L'île Maurice, etc. When Ambroise Vollard mentioned that Cezanne's mother was from distant Creole origin he was using the word in the French context.

**R.J. Clarendon-Baker**, Albertine Cottage, The Street, Worth, Deal, Kent CT14 0BY.

**DAN** Glaston (The Theme Machine, February 17) quoted Michael Winner as saying "if they open a theme park based on Ealing Studios they'll go broke. Like the studio. Sorry to disappoint — despite the receivers being called in, Ealing Studios has survived and is currently flourishing. Simon Mallin, Business Manager, NFTS Ealing Studios, London W5 5EP.

## Mediation à la mode

**YOUR** leader (Children have rights too, February 22) introduces a welcome note of sanity into the debate on divorce law reform. We have effectively had a no-fault divorce law for almost 30 years, wrapped in enough humberg to bring the law into disrepute. Lord Mackay is right to seek to restore integrity to the legal process and his critics are wrong in failing to recognise that this will actually make divorce rather harder to get than at present.

However, I fail to understand why your scepticism does not extend to the claims made on behalf of mediation. There is no worthwhile independent scientific evidence to support your assertions that "bitterness, hostility and recrimination" would all be reduced if the process were mediator-led.

There is very good evidence that mediation does not give the parties any more say in their own future than the legal system does at present, that it pays no more attention to the voices of children and that it may put women at a greater disadvantage.

The real scandal of the present proposals is their dismissal of the, generally constructive, part that lawyers have played over many years in favour of the unproven and untested claims of a new group of would-be professionals whose only virtue seems to be that their vices are unknown. Robert Dingwall, Professor of Social Studies, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD.

**YOU** are right to emphasise the needs of children in the divorce process. However, the matter cannot be addressed simply by calling for the child to be consulted within mediation arrangements.

By far the most substantial experience of applying mediation skills to parental disputes is held by the Family Court Welfare Service. We are only too well aware of the danger of children feeling an inappropriate sense of responsibility for the breakdown of their parents' marriage. Well-intentioned attempts to obtain the views of children can easily make this situation worse. The training available to independent mediators does not equip them with the skills required for this work with children.

and availability of information to children about the divorce process. The evidence is that many parents are unable to give reliable information to their children because of their own distress and guilt.

Secondly, there must be more ways in which children can make known their need to be heard. We have supported the idea of a children's rights officer at each family court care centre, but there also needs to be an investment in other services for children, such as counselling facilities. The training of health visitors, playgroup staff, teachers etc needs to encourage help for children in ways that are not stigmatising.

Thirdly, there needs to be research into the circumstances in which the current representation at court of children's wishes and feelings by family court welfare officers should be strengthened by, for example, separate legal representation. David Skidmore, Secretary, Family Court Welfare Committee, Assistant Chief Officers of Probation, 1 Printing House Street, Birmingham B4 6DE.

**THE** Government does not, as you state, currently spend £2 million on mediation. The sum you refer to is probably the grant-in-aid currently paid to organisations like One plus One, which provide marriage support services. Your confusion is a common one; there is great uncertainty about the distinctions between marriage support services and mediation.

Mediation can assist couples, who are considering separation or divorce, to reduce conflict between them and the Lord Chancellor's proposals rightly propose to fund this service. But let's not forget that this is the last resort. The best way to help children is to reduce the levels of conflict in their parents' relationship at an early stage so that their parents do not break up.

One plus One's research shows that the early years of marriage (often the time when partners are becoming parents) are highly vulnerable to breakdown. Half of the divorces in 1993 were granted to couples who had not made it to their 10th wedding anniversary and the number of divorces granted to couples with children under-five has in-

creased by two-thirds over the last two decades. Many couples turn for support at the first sign of trouble to professionals, such as members of the primary health care team.

At present, for every £3,000 the Government spends picking up the pieces of family breakdown, it spends less than £3 on marriage support services. The Lord Chancellor has introduced a new clause into the bill in order to put such funding on a statutory basis. However, the issue of resources must be addressed if this bill is going to fulfil its aim of saving the saveable marriage. Penny Mansfield, Director, One plus One, 12 New Burlington St, London W1X 1PF.

**SOPHIE** RADICE's article (Stuck in the middle, February 21) authoritatively sweeps aside a narrow and eccentric amendment on the child's right of hearing before a judge. What is not so easily dismissed is the right that children have to both understand and comment on the process of separation and divorce, which they experience along with their parents.

We all make assumptions about children's needs and their proper place in proceedings, based on our home-spun beliefs and personal experiences. In our attempt to sanitise and control the mess which is divorce we resist at all costs entering the child's world, where things are raw and pain is openly displayed.

The challenge, which the ill-conceived amendment directs us to, is how to make the family justice system more amenable to, and inclusive of, children. Children need helpful and age-appropriate information; they need help in articulating their views and aspirations; above all, they need their voices to be heard and taken seriously. Peter Jeffries, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Family Court Welfare, Inner London Probation Service, 51 Borough High Street, London SE1 1NB.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4630 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk. We may edit them; shorter ones are more likely to appear.

## A conventional view of justice we should take from Europe

**THE** editorial on the judgment of the European Court in the case of Singh and Hussain (The tariff for murder, February 22) mistakenly asserts that the Home Secretary has lost the power to decide on the release of mandatory life sentence prisoners. In fact, this judgment has only led to a change in respect of juveniles serving sentences of Her Majesty's Pleasure, who represent less than one-tenth of the mandatory life sentence population.

The Home Secretary not only holds the power to decide upon the release of the remaining mandatory lifers, but rather chillingly, he has expressly reserved the right to include political considerations as a relevant factor in that decision.

Against this background, it is only proper for the length of sentences, and release from prison, to be decided upon by the judiciary rather than a politician. This is not, however, a panacea for the problems that beset the life sentence system. It should be remembered that judicial decisions are not immune from public pressure and it is perhaps only the extremities of the present Home Secretary that makes judges seem an attractive alternative.

The root of the problem lies in the fact that the only sen-

ence that can be imposed following a murder conviction is a mandatory life sentence. This country is unique in classifying all crimes of murder as being identical in nature, a premise that is difficult to reconcile with the reality of such offences. Until a more enlightened approach to this whole area of law is adopted, there is little prospect for meaningful reform of the system. Simon Creighton, Solicitor, Prisoners' Advice Service, 57 Chalton Street, London NW1 1BU.

**WHAT** remains a mystery is the Government's reasons for not incorporating the European Convention into domestic law. On my calculation, some 60 cases against the UK have been heard in the European Court over the last 30 years and the court has found a violation of human rights in 38 of these cases. Surely, with this record, the Government should take the advice of the chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee, Sir Ivan Lewis, QC and Conservative MP, and repatriate the convention. John Wadham, Director, Liberty, 21 Tavard Street, London SE1 4LA.

## A Country Diary

**MACEY** NLEETH: All the way from Strumble Head in the south to the end of the Llyn peninsula in the north, Cardigan Bay looked wonderful on Wednesday morning when the gods blew us a few hours of idyllic calm and sunshine. Yet, only a few miles away, a tanker was in distress and there was talk of vast oil spillages, threatening the offshore islands of Skokholm and Skomer. Forty miles across the bay I could see Bardsey, an island I hope to get to this summer. Bardsey was celebrated throughout the Middle Ages as a place of pilgrimage, and so it still is for some visitors. But, for all who go there, it is a place of infinite peace and beauty, insulated from most of the world's troubles (though not from all slicks). Life on Bardsey is simple and, in some ways, nearly as primitive as it was for its remote of centuries ago. But if you would like to stay on this very livable island

and are willing to cater for yourself, I recommend that you stay at the bird observatory there. You have to use a net to make a birdwatcher; in fact you need not look at a bird the whole time. If you possibly can, go in June. Keen birdwatchers prefer to go in the autumn in the hope of seeing birds migrants; but the weather then can be very rough and cold. So June is really the time to get the best out of a visit to this island of the blessed. Then the days are long and, with luck, sunny, the wild flowers are at their best, the Atlantic is smiling in calm perfection and confiding grey seals observe you inquisitively as you walk along the shore.

If you would like to know more, write (with an SAE) to the Hon Bookings Secretary, Mrs Alicia Norman, 46 Mandrin Drive, Teignmouth, Devon, TQ14 8SB.

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سكسما الاصل



# Prince of all the tortured souls

For Pat Conroy, pain pays. He's made his name by writing his dysfunctional Southern family into his best-sellers. But, as he tells JOHN CUNNINGHAM, he's almost banished the ghosts. Photograph: DAVID SILLITOE

WHEN Pat Conroy brings out a new novel, members of his family react bizarrely, tensing and flailing round as though an electric current was passing through them. Conroy has the habit of giving his clan of six brothers and sisters, and especially his dad, shock treatment in his big family-busting books.

His mother read extracts from *The Great Santini* to the judge when she was getting a divorce as evidence of her husband's cruelty — a wife-beating, child-abusing character in the best-seller is based on Colonel Don Conroy. When *The Prince of Tides* appeared, Pat's sister Carol — a poet on whom the mentally ill poet Savannah is based in the book — cut him dead.

You can sympathise with his mother. Pats, a minor Southern matriarch. On her deathbed, as Conroy recalls, she said "Son, I find it hard to relax while I'm dying, knowing you're going to write down every damn word I say." Conroy insists she was joking, but sure enough, 12 years on, the lingering, languid death from cancer of the mother of his latest hero, Jack McCall, spans his new novel, *Beach Music*. Though it takes in the Holocaust and the Vietnam War as they affect a later generation of players, it's really about a family in South Carolina, the hospitable home zone which Conroy wears like a nicotine patch in reverse — feeding rather than breaking his addiction to the South.

Indeed, Charleston is for him more of a character than a moody presence, a place where the local material on the Dehret look as common as the phone book. By comparison, the membership of Pall Mall seems as exclusive as a bus queue. And the locals have a sense of decorum that makes Barbara Cartland appear as refined as Ruby Wax.

Throw in some fine upstanding young men of impeccable sexuality ("Show me a product of a military school and I will show you a man who can beat off without moving a muscle, without rustling a sheet") says the narrator in *The Lords of Discipline*, add some women to die for and, wrapped in a lyrical prose which invokes the natural life of the coast and adjacent lowlands, you have a typical Conroy package.

Then the flaws begin to appear, in fiction as in life. Several of the Conroy clan work in hospitals. His young schizophrenic, committed suicide in 1984, and while Pat has no wish to wear a white coat, he the guy who applies the literary electrodes to his kin, blaming his military hero father for the siblings' childhood grief if not for their later dysfunction. Pat, at 50, is a big



Pat Conroy's a one-off... blubbing about men's emotions, without John Updike's detachment or Robert Bly's male rituals

roly-poly guy, a good 'ol boy with a tortured soul. And he's a one-off: blubbing away about men's emotions, without any of John Updike's detachment, and certainly without Robert Bly's invented male rituals. Some literary critics, Conroy says, are uneasy about the way he deals with men's emotions in his novels. It's water off his back; after all, a *Vanity Fair* profile said recently that he manages to pour out his heart "without losing a tincture of his masculinity."

Home — if that is the right word, since the family moved more than 20 times in Pat's first 18 years — was where the writ of the parade ground also ran.

I tell you Dad was tough. He was the toughest father I ever saw, ever heard about. He'd start hitting you just after you were a baby. All you had to do to get in his target range was to walk. If you cried, he'd hit you in the face. Dad was 6ft 3ins, 230 pounds, the strongest Marine I ever saw. There was a reign of terror in his house. The soft father was an unknown figure in my life.

Pain clearly pays. American readers go for his novels in a big way — 750,000 copies sold in the US of the latest, *Beach Music*, just out here (Doubleday, £16.99) in which — a great crux in any Conroy trauma — sons are cast out by fathers with far more fury than Adam and Eve's exile from Eden.

So we have tumbling General Elliott, calling his son a limp-wristed faggot (though actually he's a sensitive priest, not gay at all). As rages go, and they've been going on for 20 years in his novels, Conroy says the General notches up a nine on the Richter scale. But he claims as a writer, he's melting. Maybe there's a clue in the General's tirade against the Roman Catholic church. "Vatican II, that's when the Church went wrong. That fat pope who couldn't do a chin-up if his life depended on it..."

Certainly, the fictional fatherhood in Conroy's novels is full of rage, but no full-scale reconciliations. And Conroy says his father sometimes comes along with him to book-signing sessions, often to point out to readers the gaps between fact and fiction.

But what if you do wrong? "Generally in my novels, they fail to mirror the father. Also I think there's rage at the violent front of taking their father's place. And they're always the ones who're loved by the wife, by the mother. And it's the softness (in the sons) that the mother loves, the father can't stand."

That was so in his own case. His father, a Marine fighter pilot, sneered when he took up typing because he wanted to be a novelist — "that's for sissies" — but in *Beach Music*, the narrator, from childhood onward, is disturbingly aware of his mother's sexuality.

Bit of the old Oedipus Complex in his own life? "Well, I had the prettiest mother I ever saw. She was a doll."

Bit in love with her yourself? "I think so."

More than a bit? "You know, not like I wanted to sleep with her but I thought... thought... this caused a great deal of rage in my father, but I ended up loving things she was fond of... poetry, literature. There was a war for the souls of all my brothers and sisters between my mom and dad."

Given all this, it's surprising New Man doesn't make much of an appearance in his novels. "You know any form of definition is bound to get you in trouble. Automatically, I'm a product of my age. I grew up in the American South. The civil rights movement came roaring round the corner in front of a white southern male. You know, being raised in a southern family I was classed as racist. I worked through that. Just as I was doing great, the Vietnam war comes flying round the corner, there I was in the most conservative all-white college in the country, preparing for this awful war. I demonstrated against that war before it was over. Then I was thinking 'Live a fairly liberal free-thinking life' when the women's movement came beopping round the barricades. And once again I found myself a white southern male, the enemy for the third time. So my life was a process of adjustment."

Fair enough, but is he an Iron Jock or an Iron John? "Are those the guys who beat drums in the forest at night fires and dance round? They're really really. They have tried to draw me into that, I'm not interested."

Why not. It's not much different from boot camp? "Yes, I went through that. I just really don't need to howl at the moon round a campfire. You know, the movement I believed in was the women's movement. It had goals, and I had five daughters... that seemed to have a real purpose. I found, behind the men's movement, a secret unacknowledged hatred of women; that I didn't want to participate in. It all started as a denigration of the women's movement. One thing I don't worry about is white guys feeling a loss of power. When I talked to these guys, usually at the bottom of it was rage with women, the feeling they were short-changed, that something was lost."

So you won't write about it? "There'll be seven or eight books about the men's movement, you know when something starts in the United States, that's how it is. If I wrote about it, I might make fun of it."

What he might write next is, he says, a portrait of an American marriage. He recently divorced his second wife and seems unsure or unwilling to say what went wrong, beyond incompatibility. It might be some time before he manages to produce that because, in spite of the dismissive way he swings his shoulders when an obstacle comes up, trauma takes its toll: there was a 10-year gap between *Prince of Tides* and his new book. Four of his brothers and sisters have attempted suicide (excluding Tom Conroy) and the writing of *Beach Music* was interrupted by what he calls a couple of "nervous breakdowns."

Fashions engage him — "I'm passionate about everything I write. Fashions do not affect his work." "New South writing?" he queries. "No I've not heard of that. I don't think there's a school." He's quite happy walking the family demons.

# Nolan was a step too far

PETER THURNHAM explains the reasons behind his decision last week to resign the Tory Whip

WHEN I resigned the Conservative whip on Thursday it was because I have had a variety of concerns. One was the Nolan report. I was dismayed that the Prime Minister, who set up the Nolan committee because of concerns about standards in public life, started to backtrack quickly after pressure from backbenchers, especially over the disclosure of earnings.

I was deeply unhappy when the Prime Minister started reversing his position on this. And now there is Scott. Conservative spokesmen did their best to rubbish the Scott report before it had even been published. It is now clear it was an absolute can of worms.

The more I read the Scott report, the more appalled I am. The Government is obviously minded not to take any action over Scott further than it needs to; and Monday's motion is a technical one, which they'll try to wriggle round. The Ulster Unionists, from what I am hearing, will abstain.

But the Government needs to ensure that sufficient action is now taken so that there is far less chance of such a debacle in the future, and action must be taken to follow up Sir Richard Scott's recommendations. It has clearly accepted quite a few: Ian Lang has said it will follow up half the recommendations, and give active consideration to the other half; it will be interesting to see how this emerges in the debate.

In the old days, ministers resigned when civil servants made mistakes. The air was allowed to clear, and Monday's motion is a technical one, which they'll try to wriggle round. The Ulster Unionists, from what I am hearing, will abstain.

I have been concentrating on the third volume of Scott, which seems to me to show the least defensible aspects of this government debacle. It reveals on almost every page the complete bungling that was going on. Customs and Excise had intelligence reports showing that it

knew what Matrix Churchill was doing, yet it did not act at the time, and the Government did nothing. When Customs decided to bring a prosecution, it "forgot" it had had this material. Yet if Customs and Excise officials had these intelligence reports, the Government must have known that lathes from Britain were being used for making Iraqi munitions.

What concerns me most is the Matrix Churchill trial: I'm very worried that it ever happened. Sir Nicholas Lyell now says he took the decision that it was better at the time to stand back and let the judge sort out the issue; but that's too convenient, isn't it? Scott evidently took a different view to Lyell. At the collapse of the trial, an intelligence witness said the defendants had been very brave men when they went into the dock. So why did the trial take place?

But the report makes many people feel that Alan Clark was the villain of the piece: that he seemed to be giving the nod and wink to machine-tool manufacturers. The report shows that Clark was interviewed by the Prime Minister about this, and afterwards Sir Robin Butler sent him a note of the meeting — which Clark amended so as to strengthen his claim of ignorance. That paper was certainly available later in Sir Robin's office, and I think in the office of Sir Brian Urwin, chairman of Customs. So why was it not acted upon? The report is full of such bungling.

I can see there were initially concerns to protect a company providing employment in the Midlands — but with hindsight it is clear we should not have had any dealings with Saddam. Once the trial came to court, I cannot see any benefits that might have been traded off.

Three men were put in the dock with the whole weight of government evidence against them. In 1986 I put down a foreign affairs question in the House on our arms exports. It was answered by Tim Renton, who said we were applying the arms-export guidelines strictly. There was no indication of any relaxation in these guidelines. At the time of the trial we were all very confused.

The difficulty is that Scott never prepared a summary, so it has not been easy for me to take a quick overview. It deliberately lacks soundbites. Its length, and time pressure, have ensured that not everyone has been able to read it all, or even the strength to carry all five volumes around.

I hope more MPs will read further into the report over the weekend. The more they read, the more critical they will be of the Government.

# Loft dwellers come down to earth

While Terence Conran is addicted to loft-living, SALLY WEALE talks to the city types who are kicking the habit

SO, Sir Terence Conran is singing the praises of living in the wide, white height ceilings, sweeping staircases and minimalist-style decor. The uncluttered whiteness of it all is breath-taking. But where's the washing drying on the radiators? Where's the mantelpiece for all those knickknacks?

Sir Terence himself occupies a miraculously spartan 6,000 square feet of space in Butler's Wharf. There's a view of the river Thames, a stainless steel kitchen, two off-white sofas and little else.

It looks ideal — a fresh, streamlined lifestyle in a last-of-its-kind environment that smacks of glamour and Hollywood chic. But is it really a viable alternative to the Coronation Street terraces, three-bedroom semis, or the little boxes of the new towns?

how they pitch their appeal. The pictures show rooms the size of bungalows with double-height ceilings, sweeping staircases and minimalist-style decor. The uncluttered whiteness of it all is breath-taking. But where's the washing drying on the radiators? Where's the mantelpiece for all those knickknacks?

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Height of sophistication... Peggy Prendeville in her east London loft. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

Artist Martin Richman, 46, and his wife Lisa, lived for five years in a loft in the Spratt's Dog Biscuit warehouse in Poplar, east London. They had 2,000 sq ft of space and ceilings 16 feet high. It was "thrilling," says Richman. But as their children, Mimi, now aged 11, and seven-year-old Harry grew up, it became less and less practical. There was no garden, the environment was industrial and the service charges were almost prohibitively expensive.

"I would not want to decay the notion of lofts," says Richman. "Living in a large, open, high-ceilinged space is a glorious and wonderful thing. But with just a thin partition wall dividing the bedroom from the living room, there was no privacy."

Then there's the problem if A wants to watch TV and B wants to listen to some music and C wants to read a book and you are in one big open space. It's not easily resolved. You also miss the great pleasure you get when you're having a family argument, of being able to go somewhere and slam a door."

Mr Richman and his family now live in a traditional Victorian house in Hackney. He would not discount the idea of

loft-living again — it's an ideal lifestyle for a single person or young couple, he says. But he thinks the whole concept has become a bit over-hyped.

"All that stuff about 'Big Apple, New York-style living. It's become a marketing cliché and like any other marketing cliché you'd better take it with a pinch of salt. There are an awful lot of shoddy and not particularly desirable spaces that are sold under the banner of loft-living."

Interior designer Peggy Prendeville, her husband and two children, still live in the Spratt's building the Richmans left in 1989. She loves it

and makes a living out of designing other loft spaces, but admits it's not for everyone. "I don't think much of the population would want to live in a place like this."

"The British character is to be all sort of cosy and comfortable. I've had people come round and say 'I couldn't bear being in a house without a fireplace'. It does lack the cosiness of all the things a house can give you. You've got to be prepared for an uncluttered, more minimalist approach to your interior."

Another drawback is that however beautiful it might be inside, outside it's a nightmare. Inevitably, most of the former warehouses and factories now under conversion are located in the murky industrial wastelands of our big cities. "They do tend to be in grotty areas," concedes Prendeville, who insists nevertheless that the interior of her loft, with its space and light, more than makes up for the neighbourhood.

It's all very well for young trendies. The space might be great, the light fantastic, but despite Sir Terence's infectious enthusiasm, most of us will probably settle for our cosy Victorian terrace with its clutter and mess, its fireplace and staircase, and that framed square in the ceiling that leads to what we know as the loft.

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Jeffrey Quill

Putting the fire into the Spitfire

IN 1936 Jeffrey Quill, who has died aged 83, became the second man to fly the Vickers-Supermarine Spitfire...

Jeffrey Quill was educated at Lancing College and having taken an RAF short service commission in 1931, learned to fly at No 3 Flying Training School...

But on March 5 1936, Quill flew Summers to Eastleigh, where Mutt made the encouraging maiden flight of the new fighter...

With war Quill insisted on gaining frontline experience of the aircraft and served with No 65 (Spitfire) Squadron at Hornchurch during the Battle of Britain...

Apart from making the first flights on all operational Spitfire variants - as late as 1943 it was still the world's fastest propeller-engined fighter...

grounds, having logged more than 5,000 flying hours in 90 aircraft types, and was awarded the OBE. He immediately stepped into another career with Vickers-Armstrong from 1948...

QUILL continued to demonstrate his Spitfire, G-JJ at airshows and made his last Spitfire flight in 1966, just 30 years after he climbed into the prototype, K5054...

Quill also won the 1963 Daily Express offshore powerboat race and was once short-listed for the Olympic-class sailing team...

In retirement Quill wrote two splendid books, Spitfire - A Test Pilot's Story (1963) and Birth Of A Legend: The Spitfire (1966)...

Don Robertson writes: In 1943 when the Seafire was under development I was sent to Supermarine as Jeffrey Quill's assistant...



MK I of a masterpiece... Jeffrey Quill and Spitfire in 1939

development I was sent to Supermarine as Jeffrey Quill's assistant. We both lived at Bursledon on the Hamble River near Southampton...

Jeffrey Quill was a great man to work for and everybody liked him. Never too busy to spare a word of encouragement or advice...

Jeffrey Kindsley Quill, test pilot, born February 1, 1913; died February 20, 1996

I K Dairo

Music for a new nation

I K DAIRO, who has died aged 65, was one of the founding fathers of the Nigerian music scene...

For more than 20 years he was the king of juju, the Yoruba urban style that originated in the twenties in the palm-wine bars around Lagos...

By 1969, when he changed his band's name to the Blue Spots, he was mixing traditional songs, praise poetry and Christian hymns with latin and other rhythms...

DAIRO achieved some international success, but was unlucky to have been born just slightly ahead of his time. At the height of his career, in the early seventies...

His death, apparently from diabetic complications, is a reminder of a happier era both for Nigeria's people and its musicians. It comes in a month when Fela Kuti, the country's most celebrated Yoruba star, and arch-critic



Dairo: slick lyrics VAL WILMER

of successive military governments, has once again been in and out of jail, this time on drug charges. Robin Daneslow

Val Wilmer writes: I K Dairo was one of many Nigerian musicians I saw at early West African student dances. St Pancras town hall was launched in 1964 for his Blue Spots...

Ishah Kehinde (IK) Dairo, musician and academic, born 1930; died February 7, 1996



On top of the world... Schoen and Franz Beckenbauer celebrate West Germany's 1974 World Cup win

Helmut Schoen

Football maestro in a flat cap

HELMUT Schoen, who has died aged 80, gave West Germany a standing in world football it has never lost. During his 14 years as national manager, from 1964 to 1978...

In 1966 West German team containing the young Franz Beckenbauer but heavily dependent on the speed of the Borussia Dortmund pair, Emmerich and Held, lost to England in the World Cup final...

German side bearing early signs of the Total Football that was to follow reached the semi-finals before going out to Italy in a seven-goal extravaganza. Schoen was a tall, courteous figure on whose head was perched his trademark, an inexpressive flat cap...

teams before joining Hertha Berlin, where a knee injury finished his career. He fled to the West in 1950 and in 1956 became assistant to the legendary West German national coach, Sepp Herberger. Schoen succeeded Herberger eight years later...

When their 3-0 defeat of the Soviet Union in the final in Brussels was arguably their finest performance under Schoen. Schoen's admirers thought he should have retired after the 1974 World Cup triumph...

David Lacey

Weekend Birthdays

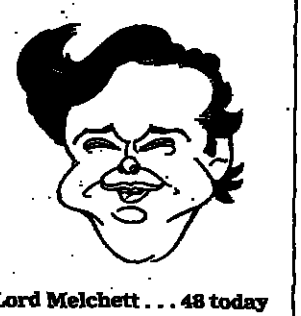
Greetings Lord Peter Melchett (far right), north Norfolk farmer and gentle man of the environment movement. Great grandfather was ICI's first chairman...

great foresight you gave up a promising career as a Labour peer to join the eco-movement and here you are at 48, one of the first pillars of Britain's alternative establishment...

had a higher profile than with the Brent Spar but then, in one of Greenpeace's finest hours, someone went and stuck a measuring rod down the neck of the North Sea oil platform...

Today's other birthdays: Rt Rev Jonathan Bailey, Bishop of Dunwich, 56; Brian Close, former England cricket captain, 68; Richard Hamilton, pop-art painter, 74; Paul Jones, actor and singer, 45; David Langdon, cartoonist and illustrator, 82; Denis Law, footballer, 56; Michel Legrand, composer and conductor, 65; Bernard Marsden, actress, 77; Peter Owen, publisher, 82; Alain Prost, motor racing champion, 41; Michael Radford, film director, 50; Derek Randall, cricketer, 45; The Rev Kathleen Richardson, Methodist minister, Moderator, Free Church Federal Council, 58; Dennis Waterman, actor, 48.

Tomorrow's birthdays: Elkie Brooks, singer, 51; Foster Courtney, actor, 59; Lord Crickhowell, chairman, National Rivers Authority, 62; Farokh Engineer, cricketer, 58; George Harrison, filmmaker, singer, former Beatle, 53; Harvey McGregor QC, warden, New College, Oxford, 70; Robert Neuma, brewer, 62; Sir David Puttnam, film producer, 55; Lt-Col John Stephenson, former secretary, International Cricket Council, 60; Prof Stewart Sutherland, principal, Edinburgh University, 55; Marjorie of the RAF Sir Keith Williams, former Chief of Air Staff, 68.



Lord Melchett... 48 today

Face to Faith

Lost in these trivial pursuits

Madeline Bunting THERE'S a captivating advert currently running on television. Stylish in grainy black and white, short snatches of film of huge drama: a baby being born and his father falls over in a dead faint...

blazed this trail, hijacking experiences of huge depth and significance and using them to sell knitwear. So we had a billboard-size poster of a bloody, brand new baby still with umbilical cord uncut...

all that is offered for its fulfilment is the car, or the cashmere sweater... Either we're suckers and we fall for it, believing that a succession of possessions will provide deep happiness and fulfilment...

and talk on the telephone as dozens of people die, make love, or suffer horrors and unimaginable sorrows in front of our glass eyes. What previous age could know so intimately all the ways human beings can die or have sex?

sacred in life. We seem to manage very well without them, you might say. But where it all collapses is in those great life events, when even the most hardened sceptics find themselves flocking to find a ritual which will express the profundity of the experience...

places it on a different level from our daily mundane preoccupations. For births and marriages, we scrape by, naming ceremonies, and the time-honoured recipe of flowers, bridesmaids and champagne usually leave most people satisfied.

but we have no alternative to fall back on. We have no understanding of how to approach the sacredness of this particular moment in time over another. Each of us ends up painfully learning - or not - for ourselves.

Madeline Bunting is the Guardian's religious affairs editor

Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.



# A night in with a fine wine

## Television

### Adam Sweeting

IT ISN'T quite clear whether this week's Brit Awards were triumphant or catastrophic, though the way all the straggly and controversial bits were cravenly censored from Tuesday's TV broadcast suggests that the organisers feared that several of our leading pop personalities had brought the game into disrepute.

Paul Weller has managed to embody the widespread ambivalence about the Brits in particular and going-collecting in general by never quite declining an award, but not quite managing to turn up to collect one either. Last year, he huffily refused to set foot on the premises to grab his Best Male Artist figurine. This year, he appeared only on videotape, in which he accepted the honour with typical studied incoherence.

Perhaps his real reward was last night's *Late Presents* Paul Weller In Concert (BBC2), although surely host Jools Holland could have devised a fresher simile than "I'd man who, like a fine wine, has improved with age". We must have abandoned mewing soft soul and fake funk and rediscovered the electric guitar. He plays it with fire and swagger, and every now and again forgets himself completely and indulges in bouts of rampant guitar-heroism. All he needs now is a few songs you can recognise, like the ones he used to write in *The Jam*. Currently, our Best Male Artist sounds like a time-travelling fusion of Bad Company, Traffic and Blind Faith, which tells you plenty about the State of Pop.

Cybill Shepherd would turn up for an award even if both legs were in traction and she was immured in an iron lung. Cybill's presence becomes a slightly desperate struggle to convince the world that she can act, that she's breathtakingly beautiful, and that she's funny. For proof that she scores C-minus on all counts, take a look at *Cybill* (C4).

Laugh? I would have watched the Mark Thomas Comedy Product instead, but preview tapes were "unavailable" (fascinating subtlety here about the way TV companies can manipulate what's reviewable, but we don't have time for that now). Actually, *Cybill* did have a few chuckle-some one-liners, mostly thanks to her friend Marianne, but the really striking thing about the show is its fantastical self-centredness. This is a programme about the Holly wood elite and Cybill's imagined place in it. Much of the script comprised jokes in which Cybill pretended to be self-deprecating about her obstacle-filled life, but really it was a projected whinge about how people don't love her enough. Only in California.

Compare and contrast with *The Fast Show* (BBC2), which is exactly what it says. It's fuelled by sheer pace, with scenes flying so rapidly it becomes irresistible, mostly because you can't understand a word. Rowley Birkin QC is a cartoon establishment geriatric, steeped in whisky and oozing glibberish, while *Big Show* is both a parody and an exact copy of a Greek/Italian/Spanish TV show. Choicest sketch was "Jazz Club", an in-concert TV show of excruciating hipness featuring the Donald Strang Jazz Tendency playing the classic. In a *Turquoise Mood*. Like a fine wine, Donald had improved with age.



The Spellbound exhibition features film-makers as artists and artists as film-makers. Does it work? No, says art critic ADRIAN SEARLE. Yes, says film critic JONATHAN ROMNEY

# Popcorn, Britpop and pop art

SPELLBOUND attempts to make sense of the relationship between art and film in the latter part of the 20th century. It is a strange affair. With its roll-call of illustrious British-based film-makers and an unlikely group of well-known British artists, the show mixes popular appeal and serious intentions, entertainment and high culture. There are film-making artists and arty film-makers, amateur auteurs and directors whose hubris makes them think they can play at the avant-garde. Sir Eduardo Paolozzi has merely filled a gallery with the junk from his studio, with a whole lot more borrowed from a film-prop hire company. There are piles of plaster-cast offcuts from his sculptures, a desultory rack of costumes and a rag-bag of the sculptor's collected ephemera. The robot woman from *Lang's Metropolis*; books of knitting patterns — all sitting on the skewed shelves of some knock-up storage racks.

Paolozzi calls this lazy nonsense an attempt to describe an indescribable film, but really it is a monument to Paolozzi himself, and even includes a maquette of the artist's sculpture for the British Library.

Both Paolozzi's lumber room and Peter Greenaway's huge installation function primarily as lists of props, locations, actors and actresses, of references and filmic quotes. Greenaway sees himself as an artist and his peregrinations around the international art circuit have, as much as anything else, been shopping trips for artistic ideas. Live actors sit waiting in glass booths shrouded in Bacon's profane images, and of *Tyler's Swinton* in her cabinet at the *Serpentine* (last year) while around them thunder crashes and lights flash.

There are tables laden with the impedimenta of imaginary filmic scenes and at the breakfast table, in the suicide room and at the abattoir — and an ever-growing pile of daily papers.

A pig's head sits in a galvanic bucket, there are rubber gloves, a white letters board, a beeping bucket of the arterial blood and... no, I can't go on. The installation artist Robert Wilson does this kind of thing much, much better. Paolozzi and Greenaway hide



Genre benders... Boyd Webb's popcorn-inspired Asteroid and Kidney Stone (top) is cheaply comic but unexpectedly moving. Peter Greenaway's pig's head (above, photograph by David Sillitoe) wins plaudits from the film critic but not from the art critic. Right: a scene from Damien Hirst's existential short film, *Hanging Around*.

I may set out to celebrate the affinities between film and art, but mostly Spellbound makes you aware of the irreducible differences between movie and gallery going. There's the difference between sitting in the dark and watching a film for a set length of time and taking your own time viewing exhibits in the order you choose. And there's the difference between the viewer sitting in silence and the gallery-goer dispensing loud, erudite observations to anyone in earshot.

The artist Boyd Webb points out a still more crucial difference. In art galleries, you never eat popcorn. More recent cinephiles tend not to either, and so these little explosions of vegetable matter have become the guilty secret of cinema pleasure, and Webb addresses a deep-rooted taboo in making popcorn the central image of his work for Spellbound. His best is *Asteroid and Kidney Stone*, which invokes our readiness to succumb to cinematic illusions of grandeur. On a panel the shape of a cinema screen, a membrane is twisted into a figure suggestive of Möbius-strip infinity, and nuggets of popcorn are arranged on it. Our eye transforms it into a galactic tableau à la 2001. It looks like grandiose Kubrick cosmology, but the fact that it's just plain popcorn reminds us how twirly nuts-and-bolts the most spectacular movie illusionism can be.

Damien Hirst gives us a conventional cinema space and a conventional film to match. Peter Greenaway provides seats but no film, to evoke a phantom, or rather, "virtual audience. Webb lets us sit down to see ourselves as punters watching punters. His animated film *Love Story* is the sentimental adventure of a piece of unpopcorned corn, struggling to sprout shoots before achieving cinematic ecstasy. Cheaply comic but unexpectedly moving, this is as brazen a piece of anthropomorphism as Babe, and a marvellously literal illustration of the power of corny images.

Douglas Gordon's standing-only *24 Hour Psycho* slows Hitchcock's film to three frames a second, thereby damping any possibility of reading the narrative, which is substituted by the arctic or nightmarish shifts of the image

Steve McQueen — despite his name — is a young, black British artist whose films are a high-point in the current British art show. McQueen's work is both film and art of a very high order. In *Stage*, a black man (the artist himself) and a white woman perform a silent choreography in space, accompanied by the rhythmic mechanical clatter and whirl of the projector. The black and white film dwells on black and white skin, on the details of bodies, on reflecting masses, on simple but ambiguous gestures. Light sifts through the film, across bodies, walls, and empty, manchaumatic spaces. The film's reflection looks across the gallery's polished floor into the spectator's space. The experience of McQueen's work feels as much like painting or sculpture as film. One is made aware of the otherness and closeness of the bodies in the film, their virtual presence, their physicality and their opacity. There would be no space at all for film like this in the commercial cinema, and in a sense McQueen's work is an elegy for the kinds of experience commercial cinema has lost. It goes back to the beginning, when the medium was alive, filled with enigma and infinite possibilities.

If only the other exhibits had such resonance. But although some of the set-pieces are explosive and there are fine caucuses, there are too many walk-on parts — like Paula Rego, whose presence seems entirely arbitrary. Some are in post-production, the plot got lost.

Spellbound is at the Hayward Gallery, London (0171-950 4208) until May 6.

## Reviews

### POP

#### The Bluetones The Garage, Glasgow

THE Bluetones may sneer at being corralled into Britpop's star enclosure, having deliberately laid low for the last Union-jacked year. But tonight's Garage gig is, from start to finish, a musical primer in post-dance English rock 'n' roll. Dyrans and bass do the music, Weller thangs, allowing the creamy-faced students to shimmy and bounce in each others' arms. Gutters cut their rugged lumps out of a familiar broth of psychobelic chords and visceral distortion. And the singer? Rake-thin, mump-top, kinda shy, does a monkey walk to the mike, occasionally squalling at a blues harp, throwing Exman to the hub-



Can you hear me? ... the Bluetones' kinda shy lead singer, Mark Morris

bing hotdies. So far, so conformist.

But it needn't be so ordinary for the Bluetones. The new album, *Waiting To Fly*, whets the appetite for a more gentle, yet not necessarily camp strain of new British pop. Mark Morris's soft and yearning voice taps into the white-chocolate sweetness of Squeeze's Glenn Tilbrook or Scritti Politti's Glenn Gansdale through the lyrics of love and a

### THEATRE

#### Skylight Wyndham's, London

DAVID Hare's *Skylight* transfers thrillingly from the Cottesloe to Wyndham's. The performances grow to fill the space and the play itself seems more than ever a conflict not just between two raw and angry individuals but between the entrepreneurial values of the eighties and a countervailing self-fulfilling idealism.

Hare's skill lies in interesting you in restaurateur Tom and teacher Kyra, two lovers undergoing a fretful reunion, first as people and then as symbols of the age. The characters develop into something infinitely larger than themselves, and the great second-act confrontation contains writing of a fury and passion unmatched on the London stage.

The performances in Rich-

### OPERA

#### Semele Covent Garden

JOHN Copley's staging of Handel's secular oratorio, *Semele*, is a trip down memory lane. Created in 1982 when authenticity was synonymous with high camp, the costumes are neo-classical and slightly comic; the sets with assorted pillars, pillows and beds. Visually suggest Tinto

### OPERA

#### Semele Covent Garden

retto. The piece, a wonderful blend of wit and moralising by Congreve to which Handel applied sublime musical invention, deserves to be taken more seriously. Here the pantomime atmosphere was more Brian Rix than Feydeau.

But the singing in the most important roles was superb. Ruth Ann Swenson, making her debut, scored a number of ovations when she reached the party pieces later in the show. She sings with astonishing purity and accuracy and, best of all, her vocalising served a real comic instinct.

It was Felicity Palmer, though, who took hold of what had started as a somnolent performance and shook it into life on her first appearance as jealous queen of the gods. Palmer shot off a flurry of vocal fireworks, singing passage-work at full tilt as if the fate of the world depended on her voice. After the pompous boredom of Peter Rose's Cadmus, Palmer's ripe humming was needed.

Details: 0171 301 4000 Tom Sutcliffe

# David Starkey comes of age

## Radio

### Anne Karpf

MY HOW the media love a nice, juicy, rabid rightwinger. The Gary Bushells, Richard Littlejohns, Auberon Waugh's, PJ O'Rourke — those chaps who allege that the privatisers and prints are brimming with liberal do-gooders — have actually colonised a fair whack of its space (themselves). And then there's Dr David Starkey, historian and on-screen of *The Moral Maze*, with his own show, *Starkey*, on Saturday on Talk Radio, which is celebrating its first birthday this month.

Starkey sat oddly with the station's original crew, those jocks intent on delivering their own brand of *Speaker's Corner*, especially the woolly liberals among them.

But where most of the station's initial presenters seemed to use the same five words in a recurring tape-loop, Starkey would pack at least 45 words into a sentence and throw in a reference to Machiavelli as well. Now those jocks have been jacked and Starkey remains, last week holding forth on the Scott Report, decentralisation, and feminism.

Ostensibly, this is a platform for Starkey to ventilate his philonoxenous and expatriate his philonoxenous. He's the clever boy in the front row — clearly delighted last week when he spotted that Alan from Surrey was really Alain — the don who can't resist putting down his students as he patronises the audience. Starkey speaks for middle England, and is fu-

riously opposed to what he considers false concepts of modernity, viz. deindustrialisation and anything European.

But what rescues Starkey from being an identikit rabid right-winger is his genuine interest in ideas, his maverick background as both a Quaker and openly gay (he introduces stories from his personal life with real ease and lack of embarrassment), and his wit. When one listener starts to mumble about a conspiracy of freemasons, Starkey cuts in with "If only the world were run by secret societies, it might be run rather more efficiently."

John Sessions, parodist extraordinaire, would have fun with Starkey's incessant as it were and indeeds, but last week Sessions's beam was fixed instead on radio arts magazine programmes when he played a troubled presenter in the five-part Radio 3 series *Mightier Than The Sword*. Radio 3 has made the week-long, post-evening concert series of nightly short programmes into something of its own over the past few years, and here Sessions and his team (including John Wells and Rebecca Front) brilliantly geyed the conventions of *Kaleidoscope* and *Nightwaves* so that the unsuspecting listener might at times have thought they'd tuned into the real thing.

In pretend programmes on Hardy, Woolf, Beckett, Shakespeare and Lawrence, there were some inspired touches — like the announcer saying "You may like to know that you can hear a repeat broadcast of today's programme on Sunday afternoon at 4.40 — though of course if you're not listening to this broadcast there's no point in me saying that."

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## National gilt fees still have the edge

### Cashpoints

**NATIONAL** Savings, the Government's high street savings arm, is increasing the commission it charges on purchases and sales of gilts through the National Savings Stock Register, with effect from March 1.

The commission will be increased to 0.7 per cent from 0.6 per cent on the first £5,000, and 0.375 per cent thereafter on any amount over £5,000. The charge will be a minimum of £12.50 for purchases, up from the existing £5. But National Savings says buying gilts worth £1,000 through its register will still cost only £12.50, compared to the average stockbroker commission of £22.50 on similar deals.

There will be no fixed minimum charge on sales. Annual selling gilts valued at £250 will pay £1.75 and sales worth £1,000 will cost £7.

**THE** National & Provincial's new three-year fixed-rate savings bond paying 6 per cent before tax on minimum deposit of £2,500. Savings of between £10,000 and £24,999 will return 8.25 per cent gross, and investment of at least £25,000 earns 8.5 per cent gross.

**LLOYDS** Bank has launched a novel offshore savings account offering investors a chance to punt on the foreign exchange market. Savers will need at least £10,000 to open its new one-year Offshore Limited Edition Deposit (OLEED) account that links the returns to the exchange rates of sterling against the US dollar.

The actual pay-out will depend on how the dollar-sterling exchange rate moves over the year in relation to three pre-arranged bands starting at 8 cents, 10 cents and 12 cents. The exchange rate will be set on March 4.

So for example, if on the first day the dollar is trading at £1.51 and the exchange rate stays within a range of 8 cents up or down, the account will return 15 per cent.

If it trades outside this range but remains within the 10 cent range, the return is reduced to 11 per cent.

Should the dollar-sterling exchange rate drift apart by more than 12 cents the bank will return the original deposit plus gross interest at 3.65 per cent.

For the next 12 months an average of forecasts from UK institutions suggests that the US dollar will be trading at around £1.50 to £1.54. But, remember that the Forex market is a cruel mistress.

**BARCLAYS** Bank has come up with a way of capitalising on the forthcoming reduction in savings tax. Under the new rules from April 6, all interest which taxpayers receive will have tax deducted at 20 per cent, down from the current 25 per cent. Barclays customers can defer any interest due on savings accounts until after the new rate takes effect.

**THE** Share Centre, the no-frills share-dealing service, is offering football fans an opportunity to back their teams by buying club shares at a flat fee. The broker will buy or sell shares worth £1,000 for a commission of £3. Shares covered include Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur, Millwall and Preston North End.



### Teresa Hunter

**T**HE future's bright, the future's Orange — but will the company's shares turn out to be lemons? This is the question which would-be investors must decide before the company floats on the stock market next week.

Its 600,000 customers should this week have received an invitation to make a minimum £1,000 investment in Orange, which has grown spectacularly since its launch some two years ago. Right now Orange, having wrong-footed its competitors, is seen as the coolest kid on the block. As one City analyst said: "Orange has got a lot of things right. Investors have to decide whether it will continue with such an impressive performance."

Logic would suggest there is only one way for the mobile phone market to move and that is up, given that fewer than 10 per cent of the UK population has a mobile, compared with around 25 per cent in many other industrialised countries. But a report published this week warned that the four giant mobile phone operators will see their profits growth severely limited over the next decade.

The study, by London consultancy CTF, says that while subscriber numbers are expected to reach more than

10 million by the year 2006, a price war between the four giants, Vodafone, Cellnet, Mercury One-2-One and Orange, will push their combined revenue up by only 10 per cent over the same period.

The chief irony is that Orange looks set to become a victim of its own success. Its customer-focused, streamlined charging structure has provided its competitors with fighting words.

Though mobile phone revenues will peak around the turn of the century, from then on profits will fall as companies compete for personal subscribers. A key factor will be who secures the most customers for the more profitable modern digital services and successfully persuades customers of the older analogue services to migrate.

While Orange and Mercury One-2-One only operate digital networks, market leaders Vodafone and Cellnet have both digital and analogue. Vodafone has already seen revenues per subscriber fall from £740 in 1993 to £472 in 1995 as it increasingly acquired cost-conscious personal subscribers.

Orange shares are unlikely to pay any dividends until 2005 and the company is not due to break into profit before 1998.

The shares are therefore only suitable for investors looking for long-term capital growth. Even then, investors are being asked to invest in a com-

### What you can expect to pay

	Monthly fee rental ex VAT (£)	Commission ex VAT (£)	Free calls in mins	Peak ex VAT (p)	Off peak per min
<b>Vodafone</b>					
LocalCall (A)	12.77	25.00	—	42.5	17f
Capital Call (A)	20.00	50.00	—	50 (M25 20)	10f
Pers World Extra	22.50	30.00	50	30	10f
Buyl World Extra	37.50	30.00	100	20	10f
<b>Cellnet</b>					
Occasional call (A)	12.77	25.00	—	42.5	17f
Occasional call inc. (A)	14.89	25.00	—	30	10f
Regular call plus inc	22.50	30.00	—	20 (N/10 L)	10f
Frequent call plus local & inc.	40.00	30.00	—	—	—
<b>Orange</b>					
Talk 15	15.00	30.00	15	25	12.5f
Talk 80	25.00	30.00	80	20	10f
Talk 200	50.00	30.00	200	18	9f
Talk 540	100.00	30.00	540	14	7f
<b>Mercury</b>					
Bronze	15.00	29.75	—	25 (L) 5 (w/e)	—
Silver	25.00	29.75	—	15 (L) 5 (w/e)	—
Gold	35.00	29.75	—	15 (L) 5 (w/e)	—

(A) = Analogue tariff (M25 20) = 20 pence per minute for calls in the M25 area. (N) = National (L) = Local (w/e) = week end calls are free. f = pph. 20mins = 2 pence.

pany which is losing money, and for which there will be no forecasts in the prospectus from the company about future profits. Investors will have to rely for valuations on external analysts who put Orange's worth at £2.7 billion — although they are by no means all agreed. Pessimistic analysts value the company at nearer £1.8 or £1.5 billion.

But those who like a gamble may well take heart at the prospect, though somewhat erratic, rise in the Vodafone share price, which has more than doubled since its launch

in 1991. Although it dipped to below issue price when it bottomed at 96p in 1992, it last year reached a high of 280p — and is now trading around 227p. Orange's strength is that it is winning the battle for the more profitable digital customers with consumer-friendly deals. While One-2-One offers free local calls at weekends, Orange devised a range of monthly rental packages which offer a number of "free" calls within the monthly rental.

## Foreign fields where justice withers

### Richard Colbey

**A**N ANOMALY caused by the Legal Aid Act may prevent a man who developed throat cancer while working for a Rio Tinto Zinc subsidiary from ever having his case considered by the courts.

Edward Connelly, a Scot, emigrated to South Africa in 1972 when he was 22. Eventually he obtained work in Namibia as a foreman at a mine for Rossing Uranium Ltd, which is owned by RTZ.

He returned to Scotland in 1982 and shortly afterwards developed throat cancer. He has had to undergo a laryngectomy, which means he can speak only through his oesophagus, and is unlikely to ever be able to work again. He attributes this to the contact he had with ore dust while in Namibia, the cancer being quite a common condition among the mine workers.

Naturally enough he wanted compensation. Being left virtually penniless, he will not be able to bring the action in Namibia, where legal aid is not available. As RTZ is registered in England, he started proceedings against it in the English High Court, for which he obtained legal aid. Rather

Almost penniless, he will not be able to sue in Namibia where legal aid is not available

than try to resist his claim on its merits, RTZ argued that the action should be tried only in Namibia. There was no real reason for it to raise this argument other than the fact that in the absence of legal aid it would not be possible for Mr

### Connelly to conduct his claim there at all.

The courts are commonly faced with a situation whereby a case could be tried in more than one country: an English person on holiday in Spain runs over a Belgian, say.

In deciding whether or not to accept jurisdiction in such a situation, the English Court will ask whether there is another country where the action can be tried "more suitably for the interests of all parties and the ends of justice".

One might have thought it flew in the face of common sense to say Mr Connelly's case could be most suitably dealt with in Namibia, a country where in reality it would not be conducted at all.

Despite the obvious attractions of this argument, RTZ was able to persuade the Court of Appeal that the legal aid position had to be completely disregarded in deciding where the case should be

dealt with. Section 31 of the Legal Aid Act states that the granting of legal aid shall not, with certain exceptions, "affect the principles on which the discretion of any court is based".

Purely on the basis of where the accident occurred, it did make more sense to deal with

RTZ's action will quite probably leave its former employee to die in destitution

it in Namibia. Despite the unfairness of this, Mr Connelly's lawyers have not sought to appeal to the House of Lords. The law as it stands was probably applied correctly, if inflexibly, by the judges. Instead Mr Connelly's

solicitor, Richard Meenan of Leigh Day Co, has agreed to represent him here without legal aid.

He will act under a "conditional fee agreement", introduced last year, these enable lawyers to take on cases on the understanding they will be paid only if they win.

Mr Connelly's case is a complicated one, and Mr Meenan's firm may have to pay expert witnesses out of its own pocket with no guarantee of recouping the money, which solicitors would not normally do. It is not yet clear whether the courts will accept, now legal aid is no longer a factor, that the matter should be dealt with in England.

RTZ, which is not willing to make a realistic offer to Mr Meenan, has indicated it intends to continue doing all it can to stop the courts considering the claim, quite probably leaving its former employee to die in destitution. Richard Colbey is a barrister.

## Rich to lose their legal aid loopholes

### Nick Pandya

**T**HE Government is to tighten the terms of entitlement to legal aid to deter wealthy people from ducking legal costs.

Under new regulations likely to take effect in June, Legal Aid Board officials will be able to scrutinise the assets of claimants' relatives and friends and take property values into account when deciding on legal aid applications.

Until now, some cash-rich people have diverted wealth to other family members to qualify for legal aid. A special investigation unit for complex cases will also be

set up. New measures to curb the entitlement of the well-heeled follow the controversy sparked by legal aid granted to the likes of the Maxwell brothers and the former Guinness chief, Ernest Saunders.

One of the central proposals is to limit to £100,000 the value of a house ignored in the legal aid means test. Where a property is worth more, the assistance will be curbed.

To qualify for assistance claimants must pass a means test and demonstrate that they have a reasonable case.

Elsewhere, under plans to streamline the civil justice system being drawn up by Lord Woolf, people suing for compensation may have to pay

extra costs and bonus damages if they insist on going to court.

The Law Lord, responsible for devising a simpler, cheaper system, is proposing that litigants come to an out-of-court deal. If the case goes to court and the result shows the out-of-court offer should have been accepted, judges will be able to award costs to the party making the offer.

In a separate move, Columbia President Society and the specialist insurance broker Greystoke Legal Services have come up with a private sector legal aid scheme designed to give citizens who do not qualify for legal aid — but do not want to risk their savings — access to justice. Under

the terms of its Law-Assist plan, applicants pay a one-off premium of £250 including VAT, which covers bills to £2,000. For more complex legal wrangles applicants can pay a premium of £1,050, which will allow for legal costs up to £18,000.

The scheme differs from traditional insurance deals because it provides after-the-event cover, where a legal action may be the best way to resolve the situation but funding the court case is a burden.

Anyone interested in taking out the policy should bear in mind that it is a discretionary scheme, which means that — with motor or home insurance — the buyer is obliged to

disclose all material facts of the case accurately. However, Bob Gordon of Greystoke says that it has never turned down a claim.

Greystoke says its case-load shows that 80 per cent of the court cases it is involved with relate to people suffering personal injuries through negligence. Other cases involve industrial injuries, professional negligence and breaches of contract. The society will not take on cases involving matrimonial disputes, debt collection or builders.

Further details from Bob Gordon, Greystoke Legal Services, Greystoke House, 80-86 West Street, London SE21 3AQ.

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We have failed to convince market users of the need for change

NatWest Markets

Notebook

Wall Street sails on regardless

City revolt rocks Exchange

Patrick Donovan and Paul Murphy

THE Stock Exchange faces huge pressure to suspend its plans for restructuring the share market after being confronted with a virtual vote of no confidence by many of the City's most powerful broking houses.

sents the biggest market upheaval since Big Bang in 1986. But several of its leading members insisted yesterday that they saw no need for any change in the existing "quote-driven" system which relies on market makers posting prices at which they are prepared to buy and sell shares.

introducing "order-driven" trading, which is based on dealers posting the size of bargain they wish to deal. Leading brokers such as BZW, Capel-Cure Myers and Winterflood Securities joined with bodies such as the National Association of Pension Funds to say that they saw no pressing reason to change the way the markets work.

Michael Marks, co-head of global equities at Merrill Lynch, said: "There needs to be an overwhelming demand from the majority of the market participants and users in favour of a move towards order-matching within the trading processes of the London market before such a major step is taken."

to giving a tacit approval to something that is not required". NatWest Markets said: "We should not move forward with a new structure simply to meet a self-imposed time deadline."

needed, BP said: "Changes are being forced on the markets from three main areas. They are Life, overseas investors and the UK market makers. The UK market makers are now owned by companies who put risk control above supplying liquidity to a quote-driven market."



Alex Brummer

Dow Jones has performed so mightily over the past year it is that the 30 companies which make up the index have been through their own micro-revolution. In fact, it is the drive for shareholder value — in the shape of AT&T, the US telecoms group, shedding 40,000 jobs along with its de-merger — which has so infuriated Pat Buchanan and reinforced his anti-corporatist sentiments.

Currently, mutual funds in the US — the equivalent of our unit trusts and Peps — have some \$3,000 billion invested, of which some 45 per cent are in the stock market. Although there has long been a tradition of popular capitalism in the US, the current situation is regarded by US economists as a sea change.

AT PRESENT, and in real terms, the percentage of household wealth held in stocks and shares is reckoned to be in the order of 35 per cent. This is still below the peak of 40 per cent reached in the 1963-65 era, which suggests that the current Wall Street surge has headroom, particularly if the US economy continues to grow, even at a more sedate pace.

But it is much more than that. There is evidence that important structural changes have been taking place, too. As far as the Big Board is concerned the trend to releasing shareholder value — de-merger fever among the blue chips — has been a key factor. This market incentive has been underpinned by structural changes — among them rediscovery by Americans of all ages, including the baby boomers, of the value of saving and investment after decades when consumption has been the king.



Facing the music... Jürgen Schneider arrives under guard at Frankfurt airport after nearly two years on the run with his wife Claudia (above). PHOTOGRAPHS: AP/WIDEWORLD

Tycoon takes flight to prison — first class, naturally

IAN TRAYNOR sees fugitive couple return to stand trial in Germany

FUGITIVE Jürgen Schneider — brick-layer, business school graduate and estate agent extraordinaire — was behind bars last night after almost two years on the run fleeing charges in Germany's biggest property scandal since the war.

were remanded by a Frankfurt judge pending trial on an expected six charges of fraud and falsifying papers, and abetting fraud, to fund the building boom and property purchases he undertook after German unification in 1990. His empire collapsed in 1994 leaving at least DM15 billion (£2.3 billion) debts.



The tycoon was traced to Miami last May from where he fought the German authorities' extradition case until last month when he agreed to return. He fled Germany in April 1994 as his huge property bubble burst and Deutsche Bank, the country's biggest commercial bank and his main creditor, pulled the plug.

The Schneiders emerged from the first-class compartment of a Lufthansa jet yesterday after a row over their flight arrangements and who should foot the bill. The Hesse state authorities agreed eventually to meet the cost of a special deal for first class travel on grounds of security.

pected to open before the end of the year, may see their lawyers trying to turn the case into an indictment of Deutsche and the German banking system. Mr Schneider consistently claims he has been a victim of banking potentates who arbitrarily decided to make an example of him by withdrawing his credit lines and instituting bankruptcy proceedings.

The case could prove a further embarrassment for Deutsche. When the Schneiders fled to America, the bank's chief, Hilmar Kopper, damaged its image by describing as "peanuts" the millions of marks the former estate agents owed to small clients.

Industrial slowdown spreads across Atlantic

Mark Tran in New York and Richard Thomas

F EARS that the UK could follow the US into a period of economic slow-down were fuelled yesterday by evidence of a sharp manufacturing slump in the face of weakening overseas demand. Although Treasury officials shrugged off the gloomy data, stressing the long-term importance of factory capital spending, some City analysts were hastily downgrading their growth forecasts for 1998.

factories between October and December was £2,991 million, 9 per cent lower than in the preceding three months. Economists said firms could be mothballing spending on new plant and machinery because of a sharper-than-expected drop in exports. Figures from the US commerce department confirmed a further deterioration on the other side of the Atlantic, with the annual rate of expansion in one of Britain's key markets down to 0.9 per cent in the last quarter of 1997 — half the rate pencilled in by Wall Street analysts.

ment said yesterday — the weakest performance since the recession year of 1991, when the economy shrank by 1 per cent. Jonathan Loynes, UK economist at HSBC Markets, said: "Coming on top of the poor investment figures, the US data look very worrying. Export markets have weakened significantly. The risks to growth are now significantly on the downside."

Chief Secretary to the Treasury, launched an immediate defence of the UK's investment record. "There are a lot of myths about investment. In fact, it is a British success story," he said in a statement. Mr Waldegrave pointed to CSO figures showing that capital spending by manufacturing companies was 6 per cent higher last year than in 1994.

but increases of 4 per cent for vehicles and 9 per cent for plant and machinery. Separate figures from the CSO showed that factories were only slowly running down their plentiful stocks during the last quarter of 1997. Overall, firms stored goods worth £647 million between October and December, down from £789 million in the preceding three months.

ment shutdowns as the Clinton administration and congressional Republicans bickered over a balanced-budget plan. Other factors that proved a drag on growth included weakness in consumer spending and a big decline in inventories as businesses moved to reduce their stockpiles of unsold goods.

De Beers and Russia cut deal to avert diamond crisis

Dan Atkinson

DIAMOND company De Beers and the Russian government appeared last night to have resolved their differences and averted a worldwide collapse in diamond prices. Agreement on the control of about 95 per cent of Russia's diamonds has been struck six days ahead of deadline. De Beers controls the sales of about 99 per cent of the world's uncut diamonds, and Russia producing 25 per cent of all diamonds by value, is the second-largest producer (De Beers is the fourth).

Airwaves lure advertising

Lisa Buckingham

COMMERCIAL radio investment is expected to grow by nearly 23 per cent to £270.3 million last year, according to the Henley Centre, which expects commercial radio to be pulling in revenues of almost £350 million by the end of the decade. But commercial radio's assault on the BBC's audience — it now accounts for more than 50 per cent — will continue. The outgoing head of BBC Radio, Liz Forgan, has predicted that commercial stations' audience share will increase by another 20 per cent.

Radio to take the largest share

Long-term revenue forecasts 1994-2007, %

Table with 2 columns: Medium, Revenue Forecast (%)

Car insurance by phone for AA members

CHIT Jones

THE AA last night stepped up competition in the car insurance market by unveiling plans to offer direct policies to its 500,000 members. The motoring organisation will start its direct insurance arm this year, subject to Department of Trade and Industry approval. It also plans to offer direct house insurance to members next year.

Rouse pays \$500m for last assets of Howard Hughes

Mark Tran in New York

THE final bell tolled for the business empire created by Howard Hughes when his heirs yesterday sold the last assets still under the famous Hughes name to Rouse, a large developer of shopping malls, for more than \$500 million (\$285 million). Howard Hughes built a sprawling empire that spanned aircraft and satellite construction, casinos and Hollywood studios. He owned the Hughes Aircraft company, RKO Pictures Corporation, and a controlling interest in Trans World Airlines. As a Hollywood producer, Hughes was behind successes such as Bell's Angels and Scarface.

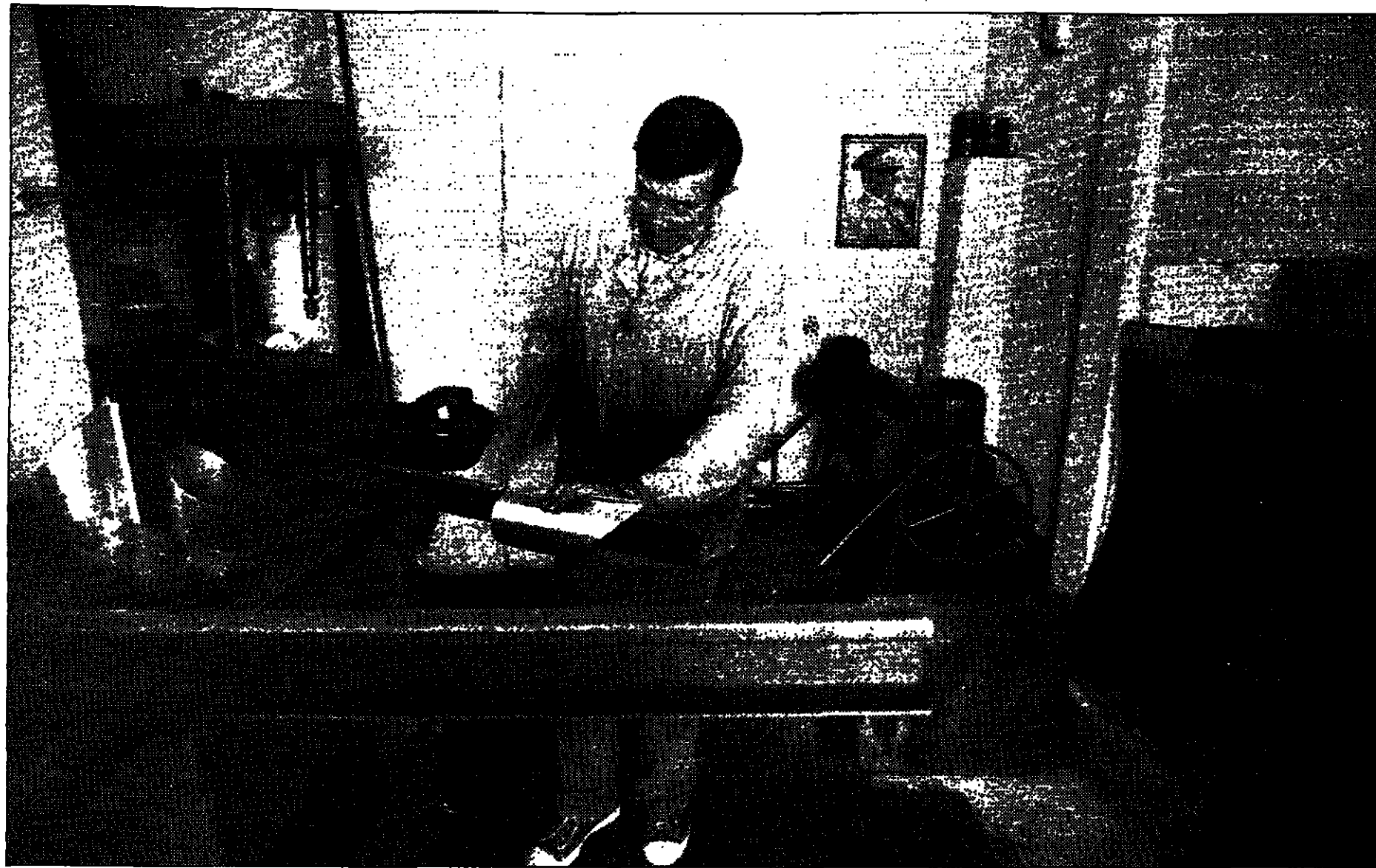
TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Table with 4 columns: Country, Rate, Country, Rate

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.



PAUL BURDEN on a wartime wheeler-dealer become a role model for reconstruction



After Tito... A metalworker fashions woodburning stoves used for cooking when Sarajevo's electricity and gas were cut off during the civil war

PHOTOGRAPHS: SEAN SMITH

Mr Fixit fills Bosnia's black hole

THE mood is suddenly tense in the Businessmen's Club at the back of Ferhadiya, the main artery of Sarajevo's old town. Someone at the other end of the phone has made Aleksa Nuhanovic angry. The backer, who had been invited to finance a DM700,000 (\$313,000) deal, wants a 1 per cent deposit upfront. Five high-decibel minutes later, the would-be backer has become an ex-backer.

has cast a deep sense of gloom over its people. Quite simply, it has become an economic black hole. The physical damage is spine-chilling. According to the International Management Group, the consultants working for the World Bank, the manufacturing economy is working at about 10 per cent of capacity. Meanwhile, the old Yugoslavia no longer exists and faith in the communist system of central planning has collapsed. The government knows there can be no return to the past.

ern market economy. Building a free market economy in Bosnia will be an especially difficult task — not only because of the destruction of the war, but also because of the quirky way that the old Titoist system had built in a high degree of interdependence among all the constituent republics. The reasoning was that economic self-interest would force them all to hang together. It failed in that, but it has also made it more difficult for an independent Bosnia to stand alone.

lems — which is causing the most short-term anxiety. At the moment, thousands of workers in state companies are in limbo. They are on somebody's payroll, but they are neither working nor being paid. The giant Polheim polyurethane plant at Tuzla has produced nothing for four years. Nationally, it still has 800 workers on its books; in practice, most are collecting welfare payments equivalent to DM100 a month or less.



A Bosnian digs for desperately needed coal in the spoilheap of the abandoned steelworks at Zenica

Update Bulgaria's arms industry, which employs some 140,000 directly and double that number indirectly, had sales of £100 million last year, the state news agency BTA reported on Thursday. The lion's share went to Arab countries.

Paris and Bonn 'are worst for setting trade barriers' Julie Wolf in Brussels EUROPEAN Union countries are undermining the single market in areas from public procurement to recognition of professional qualifications, with Germany and France among the worst offenders, the European Commission said yesterday.

Fokker resigned to job cuts Mark Milner European Business Editor STRICKEN Dutch aircraft maker Fokker expects its future to be decided this week as the Canadian group Bombardier and South Korea's Samsung weigh up possible bids.

Worried sceptics force EMU on to electoral agenda Parties' near unanimity in favour of currency union is finally questioned, reports ADELA GOOCH in Madrid

Twilight of the gods of German management

As more flagship companies run into trouble after diversification, boardroom reputations nosedive, says IAN TRAYNOR

HOW the mighty are falling. As the proudest names in German business are humbled, as the bankruptcies soar, as the balance sheets plunge into the red, questions are being asked about the captains of industry and their performance. The roll-call of blundering within the country's flagship companies is extended by the week: Daimler-Benz, Germany's biggest conglomerate, sustained record losses of DM6 billion (£2.7 billion) last year; AEG, proud manufacturer of kitchen equipment for over a century, has been broken up; Grundig, the TV-maker, posted losses of half a billion marks last year; and this week the country's biggest shipbuilder, Bremer Vulkan, filed for protection from its creditors after a one-billion-mark loss last year.

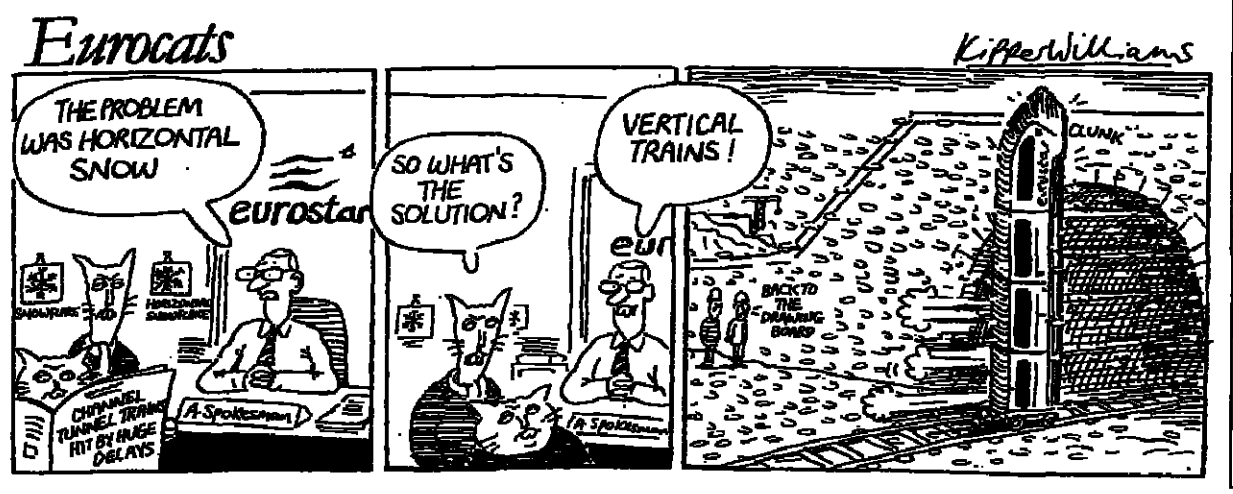
Some of the biggest names have rapidly gone from being worshipped as visionaries to being derided as villains. This week's prize for mismanagement goes to Friedrich Henemann, who ran Vulkan from 1987 until last year, when he received a golden handshake estimated at DM1.4 million. He presided over the company's disastrous expansion and diversification. With 25,000 jobs at stake in the Vulkan empire, the tabloid Bildzeitung asked: "And Are You Keeping Fine, Herr Henemann?"

Worried sceptics force EMU on to electoral agenda

Parties' near unanimity in favour of currency union is finally questioned, reports ADELA GOOCH in Madrid

ATE, but with gusto, Spain has launched a debate on monetary union, revealing the existence of Euroscepticism in a country that had appeared unanimously in favour of European integration. The initial salvo was fired by Miguel Boyer, finance minister in the first Socialist government of Felipe Gonzalez and the man who helped former EU president Jacques Delors draw up the original blueprint for monetary union.

Employment of more than 20 per cent, was linked to the German mark in a fixed exchange rate. For the two largest political parties, the debate comes at an embarrassing time, during the election campaign. Neither has seriously questioned monetary union. Both present it as an unquestionable advantage and, with slightly less conviction, insist Spain can meet its Maastricht criteria.



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# Finance Guardian

## Sell-off raises safety margin fears

**CHRIS BARRIE reports from Somerset, where officials try to plan for a 'credible' nuclear accident. Right, GREG PALAST looks at America's private nuclear plants**

**T**HE MAN from Somerset County Council was explaining why radioactive fall-out is so dangerous. "You can't see, feel, smell or hear it. It makes it all the more frightening. Something could be happening to you, and you would not know."

Russell Davies knows all about nuclear power. As senior emergency planning officer in Taunton, he is responsible for keeping the county prepared for the unthinkable: a disaster at the nearby Hinkley Point atomic power station.

British Energy, the company formed to own the eight reactors after privatisation:

● Guarantees that Government safety inspectors would crack down on staff incentives to keep plants running when they should be shut down.

Mr Davies and his boss, Somerset's emergency planning officer Peter Deal, view privatisation with a wary eye. Their first line of defence is the obvious one: no accidents in the first place.

officials were concerned that, in the long term, staff at the site would split along company lines although some safety procedures required them to act as one.

Mr Deal said: "We don't know what the private sector ethos will be. He pointed out that the nuclear inspectorate (NII) exists to prevent nuclear staff overriding safety in favour of profit."

The judge in the Wyfla case cleared Nuclear Electric of choosing output over safety. And the Government stresses repeatedly that nuclear inspections will remain as tough as ever.

plume, dispersing over distance but depositing traces "at considerable distances from the site". People can be contaminated by inhaling the material, being physically exposed to it, or by eating and drinking contaminated food and water.

**Are officials happy with evacuation only for those up to 3.5km downwind? 'Yes and no'**

notice. "Evacuation is not rehearsed because, as Mr Davies frankly admitted, the result would be "bloody chaos". It is, as a result, hard to predict how quickly the police could move the 800 locals in the immediate vicinity.

contaminated, treated in a small room — "used for storing wheelchairs at present" — to the right of the accident department. Evacuees are to be registered and screened at "rest centres" by Somerset Scientific Services and, if contaminated, separated into a "dirty area" for showering.

At Hinkley it has been assumed that the worst case will require evacuation of people up to 3.5km downwind. Yet environmental monitoring of other issues assumes a much wider area.

Both officials share the industry's philosophy that the best solution is to avoid a disaster in the first place. But faced with a reactor on the verge of meltdown, the advice is simple. By all means swallow the tablets but, above all, get moving. "You cannot be gassed here or there of the way," said Mr Russell.

## Britons beware — profit and plutonium don't mix

**W**HEN the inspector flagged a quality control problem at the South Texas Nuclear Plant, company personnel responded quickly. Standing with the inspector on the high reactor wall, they offered him a choice: "We'll throw you off and you can pick the side."

Welcome to the world of nuclear power for profit. Before Britain sells its nuclear plants into private hands, it would be wise to look at experience here in America, where we have long mixed plutonium with profit.

board in 1995 and is looking for more "opportunities" in Britain.

Is Britain prepared for profits-first nuclear operators? The following is a checklist of safety measures that the US government has been forced to adopt in an uphill battle to contain the cost-cutting impulses of nuclear entrepreneurs:

● A nuclear police force. Britain's Nuclear Inspectorate has a staff of 285 to watch 41 reactors. The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission has a staff of more than 3,000 to monitor 109 reactors. Although Americans hate government, we demand this for good reason.

● Nuclear trials. In the US, we now hold long inquiries before a plant may operate. On the Shoreham nuclear inquiry, which ran for 20 million pages of testimony and evidence over 10 years, the state government team uncovered phoney safety reports, cracked generator shafts and more. It prevented a dangerous plant operating, but only after fierce courtroom combat.

● An evacuation plan. Since the Three Mile Island partial meltdown in 1979, no US plant can operate without a publicly analysed and tested plan to evacuate 10 miles downwind of an accident.

● Accident liability. The British government proposes to limit a private owner's accident liability to £140 million — versus \$5 billion in the States. Were the American utility titan Duke Power to buy Britain's reactors and then suffer an accident, a £140 million payment would not cause the company to skip one dividend. Greg Palast is a US export in regulated utilities.

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## Not so wise counsel

# 26

Larry Elliott

**S**UCH, we are told, is the trauma caused by the news that "Take That" are to split up that specially-trained counsellors are manning hotlines to prevent distraught teenagers from taking their lives.

Counsellors? For fans of a pop group? Apparently it's true. Whereas teenagers in 1970 managed to cope with the break-up of the Beatles, and there was no surge in teeny-bop self-harm after the Bay City Rollers' demise, no part of society is now immune from counselling, the growth industry of the 1990s.

This phenomenon is extraordinary, not least because a government that came to power 17 years ago committed to rugged independence has spawned a dependency culture in which an inability to share grief or problems with a "professional" is seen as "denial". Moreover, a parental exhortation to "pull yourself together" is viewed as tantamount to child abuse.

Over the past decade, counselling has grown from a cottage industry consisting of Marjorie Proops and Claire Rayner into a state-sponsored conglomerate. Even M15 now has its own stress counsellor. Listen carefully the next time details of a serious road crash or nasty murder come on the radio. In suitably reverential terms, you will be told that trained counsellors are on hand.

By whom are these counsellors trained? What are their qualifications? And what was wrong with the old system, where individuals dealt with grief themselves or through a network of family or friends?

Interestingly, counselling fulfils the same function at a personal level as management consultancy does at the business level: putting a barrier between a problem and a solution. Indeed, there is a crossover between the two, with firms now appointing counsellors for staff faced with "distressed" customers.

Few are prepared to denounce counselling as institutionalised busy-bodying — and it is a busy executive who will say that management consultants are an expensive way of stating the bleeding obvious.

The riposte to this is that the introduction of consultants has led to a quantum leap in management standards. But what has this so-called revolution actually amounted to apart from a blizzard of P45s and a stragulated form of English? Managers who know their own businesses do not need to be told to "prioritise", even if such a verb exists.

As far as the outsider can detect, the introduction of the BBC of profit centres, weekend training sessions and anger management courses has had no impact on the quality of programmes. And where were all the super-fit, mineral water drinking crowd when Ford airbrushed black faces out of one of its posters? An old-style 40-a-day personnel officer fresh from a boozy lunch would have spotted that one.

The one piece of good news is that at least a reaction is setting in. During the Granada bid for Forté, a list was drawn up of the two sides' respective advisers.

Forté was aided, if that's the right word, by management consultants. Granada had none. The company's boss, Gerry Robinson, says they are a "bloody waste of time". Take that.

## Quick Crossword No. 8057

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

**Across**

1 Sexually abstinent (8)  
5 Stylish, elegant (4)  
9 Doctrine (5)  
10 Dishwater (7)  
11 Motorway emergency lane (4,6)  
13 Wadling (6)  
14 Load (6)  
17 Guardian — delivered early! (7,5)  
20 Very heavy rain season (7)  
22 Asian republic (5)

**Down**

22 Small amphibian (4)  
23 Insignificant, not central (8)  
6 Chartered (5)  
7 Emptying out — glade (8)  
8 Launching (12)  
12 Person steering ship (8)  
15 German porcelain city (7)  
16 Programme (6)  
18 Renovate (5)  
19 Globe — dancing function (4)

**Solution No. 8056**

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